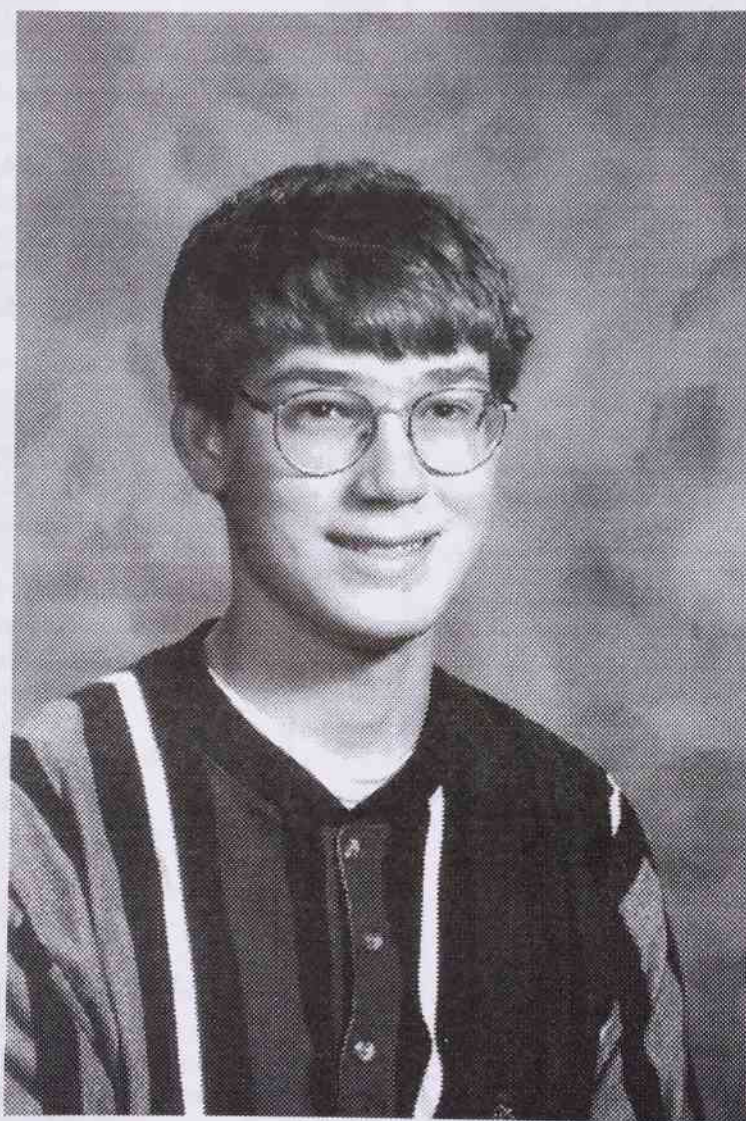

Alabama Chess Antics

November 1997 - January 1998

\$3.00



Andrew Whatley (2254)

July 24 - Turns 16

August 15 - Cowinner, Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions

September 1 - Alabama State Cochampion

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Bill Melvin
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President's Letter *by Bill Melvin*

Welcome to another exciting year of Alabama chess! The Alabama chess year seems to revolve around Labor Day. That is when new Alabama Chess Federation (ACF) officers are elected, many memberships expire, and the new school year starts. This year is no exception and I only wish we had thrown a party!

Well, we did throw a party --- a chess party in Chickasaw for the 1997 Alabama State Championship. **Camille Gaston** did everything right and held one of the best tournaments in memory. Kudos to the players in and around Mobile who *turned out in droves* to support this fine event. This tournament is going to be hard to top.

The slate of ACF officers is the same as last year with one notable exception. **Sam Whatley** elected not to run for Vice President for Scholastics after doing an outstanding job for a long while. This was not unexpected as Andrew has just about outgrown scholastic chess altogether. Sam will still be available whenever we need him, I'm sure, and I appreciate his fine efforts.

Vasha Rosenblum is the new Vice President for Scholastics. We could not have hoped for a more qualified officer and I am most enthusiastic about having her on-board. She has been successfully organizing scholastic events for many years in Hoover. Her background as an educator brings a fresh perspective on improving Alabama scholastic chess.

It is my belief that many improvements can be made in Alabama for scholastic chess. I would like to dedicate this next year to assisting Vasha in making Alabama scholastic chess better. While I have no intention of neglecting adult chess, the Antics, etc., I feel it is worthwhile to focus the majority of our effort in one area for the coming year. Last year we focused primarily on adult chess and we can focus on something else for the following year. In time, this approach should yield improvements in all areas of Alabama chess. As a chess master I believe in always playing with a plan. This, then, is my plan!

While we are always open to suggestions for improving chess in Alabama, we are most receptive to ideas in the realm of scholastic chess at present. Your suggestions are probably best channeled through Vasha. We've already got

many excellent scholastic programs in Alabama due to the efforts of countless dedicated volunteers. The challenge is to use the statewide organization as a force multiplier. This requires different brain waves from those needed to improve a local chess program. I'm confident that we are up to the task.

In other news, **Lamar Causey** has indicated an interest in holding an Alabama State Team Championship. I believe this event will prove popular and was disappointed when an organizer could not be found to host this event over the past year. I think I've always lost 50 rating points in every team event I've ever played in, but I've never had more fun! Team tournaments are special since you can be 0-4 going into the last round and still play the pivotal game that wins it for your team. This actually happened to me one year (okay, I had two draws going into the last round)! For fun chess, this is the event of choice for the upcoming year.

The 1997 Alabama State Closed Championship was not held this year. We are hopeful to have the event in 1998. We will take bids at the **Queen of Hearts** ACF meeting next February. The 1998 Alabama State Championship (the open Labor Day tournament) will also be bid upon at this meeting. Now is a good time for organizers to start considering their ability/desire to hold these events.

Finally, the rules for the 1997-98 **Heart of Dixie Tour** have been revamped. Attendees at the State Championship business meeting deemed the tour worthy of continuation and voted to seed the tour with \$200 for the coming year. We learned a bit from the event's inaugural year and did some rule tweaking to work out some shortcomings. None of the changes are drastic and are mainly being introduced to simplify record keeping for the tour and reduce the organizer's workload. Also, note that the new point system ultimately awards participation more than performance since extra credit is given for all positive scores and the 'round multiplier' is not being used. We'll see how the tour goes this year and tweak again as needed.

Looking forward to another great year of Alabama chess!

Two Upset Wins by Constantine Ananiadis

(Notes by C. Ananiadis with the aid of Chess Master 3000 - CD ROM version for Mac)

**Greater Alabama Open IV
Round I - Open Section
Time Controls: 35/90; SD/30
August 2, 1997**

**C. Ananiadis Tim Bond
(1669) (1951)**

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5

This signifies the Grunfeld Defense.

4. cd Nxd5 5. e4 Nxc3 6. bc Bg7 7. Bc4 O - O 8. Ne2 Nc6

Up until the last move by Black everything is well known. 8. ... Nc6 though is kind of awkward. Black has to get ... c5 in as soon as possible in this line in order not to get overrun by White's center. Still, the move is quite playable but - in my opinion - inferior to the usual 8. ... c5.

9. O - O b6 10. Be3 Bb7 11. Rb1 Na5 12. Bd3

Naturally, White wants to keep the bishop pair and at the same time defend e4.

12. ... c5

Better late than never! However, now White has the option of playing 13. d5 and gain space in the center. This also blocks Bb7. The main theme in this line of the Grunfeld is the following: White plays in the center and/or on the K-side and Black tries to simplify

things, weaken White's center, and go to an endgame where he'll have the proverbial 2 vs 1 pawn majority on the Q-side.

13. d5 c4?!

This move has good and bad points. For one thing, it does not allow White to play c4 himself and consolidate his center. On the other hand, it relinquishes control of the d4 square. Now White can play Bd4 at some point and try to trade dark square bishops, giving the second player dark square weaknesses around his king.

14. Bc2 Qc8 15. Bd4 f6?

With this move Black avoids the aforementioned trade and its consequences but gives himself an even bigger weakness: the e6 square.



Position after 15. ... f6?

16. Nf4!

This is screaming to be played. What better piece to plant on a weak square on the opponent's 6th rank than a knight?

16. ... Rd8

Maybe a better method of defense was 16. ... Rf7 and 17. ... Bh6 with the ... f5 thrust in the air. At least that's what CM 3000 suggested. In any case, I feel that Black is positionally lost here. He's got 2 bad bishops, weak e6, and Ra8 & Na5 are out of play. Moreover, the Q-side pawn majority is immobilized for the moment.

17. Ne6 Rd6 18. Qf3 Bh8

White had no intentions of trading the super knight for the passive creature on g7 anyway ...

19. Qg3

Preparing h2-h4-h5 with strong pressure against Kg8.

19. ... Rxe6 !?

Black can't take the pressure any longer and sacs the exchange for some piece activity. I think that's a good decision especially seeing that (the other "active" move) 19. ... f5 can be easily met by 20. Bxh8 Kxh8 21. Qe5+ and mate next. If in that line 20. ... Rxe6 21. de Kxh8 22. ef +/-.

20. de Qxe6 21. Rfe1 Nc6

After 10 moves the knight joins the battle again. Is it too late though?

22. Be3 Ne5 23. Rbd1

That rook wasn't doing much anymore on the "b" file so I regroup and place it on the uncontested "d" file. I also avoid annoying jumps of the knight to d3.

23. ... Kf7 24. f4 Nd7 25. e5?

White is trying to open lines against the Black king but this is the wrong way. 25. f5 was much better. A variation: 25. ... Qe5 26. Qh4 Kg8 27. fg hg 28. Qh6 and White has all the play. After the text, Black should reply 25. ... f5 trying to seal the K-sindec. He would still be worse but White would have to try hard to find the winning plan.

25. ... fe?

Black plays into White's hands.

26. fe Bxe5? 27. Bf4!

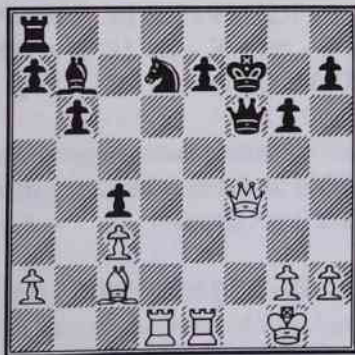
Black must have missed this. From now on there are more tactics and less strategy.

27. ... Bxf4

As good a try as any.

28. Qxf4+ Qf6.

Forced.



Position after 28. ... Qf6

29. Qxc4+?

My CM 3000 took a whole second to find 29. Rxe7+! Kxe7 30. Rxd7+ Kxd7 31. Qxf6 +/- . It didn't even occur to me ...

29. ... Ke8 30. Qc7?

I was debating between this and 30. Ba4 and - of course - as it always happens I chose the wrong one. I thought both moves won and I completely missed Black's next. After 30. Ba4 Black can resign as he can't avoid the loss of more material. Notice the power of the centrally placed rooks!!

30. ... Qc6! 31. Qxc6 Bxc6 32. Rd6!

Luckily I had this retort.

32. ... Rc8

After more than 30 moves of inactivity, the QR joins the fray.

33. Re6

Now Black is lost for good and I wasn't going to let him off the hook for a third time! It's not every day I have A players on the ropes ...

33. ... Bd5 34. Rxe7+ Kd8 35. Rxh7 Rxc3

The first signs of counterplay by Black. It's too late now though ...

36. Bxg6 Rc5

36. ... Nf6 would drop the a7 pawn leaving Black with no hope. The bad thing for Black is that he can't play ... Rc2 to get some counterplay against g2.

37 Re8 + Kc7 38. Ree7 Bc6 39. Be8

Now I am ready to give the exchange back and go to a totally won K and P endgame.

39. ... Rd5 40. h4

This, 40. Kf2, and taking on d7 all win for White. I just wanted to push my pawn closer to the queening square since Black can't rid himself from the pin.

40. ... Kd8

Now though I'd better take or the knight will leave d7 next move.

41. Bxd7

If instead 41. Rxd7+ then Kxe8 42. Rxd5 Bxd5 and although Black is still lost he's got more chance for survival. My way of taking ensures that all the pieces will come off.

41. ... Bxd7 42. Rxd7+ Rxd7 43. Rxd7+ Kxd7 44. h5

44. Kf2 or 44. g4 were also good enough.

44. ... b5??

and before I had time to reach for my h-pawn again, **black resigned**.

This got me off to a good start in the tournament but unfortunately I ended up with +2 -3 overall. Considering the strong field though that was a fine result for myself. I hope you enjoyed the game! ☺

Here's another upset win, this time from the State Championship and without notes:

**Alabama State Championship
Upset Prize Winner
8/31/97 Round Four**

Leo Denton	C. Ananiadis
(2058)	(1668)

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. g3 g6 3. Bg2 Bg7

(continued on page 10)

In Quest of a State Open Championship

by LM A.J. Goldsby I (with comments by Jack Mallory)

The 1997 Alabama State Championship was beautifully and meticulously organized by Camille Gaston and ably directed by Rich Bellezza.

Winning this event was the culmination of a life's work, so I will give all my games and a few round-by-round impressions. But first, a little history.

I've played in about 15 Alabama State Championships and nearly won twice. In 1984, though rated only 1900, I was clear first after five rounds, having defeated several "heavies" and drawn with SM Stuart Rachels. But then I lost to the "Great American", Brent Inman. Defeating Ray Downs in the last round gave me a solid score of 5 1/2 - 1 1/2, but no championship.

I again drew with Rachels in 1985, but drew the last round while Rachels ground down LM Kyle Therrill. I finished clear second, but Rachels was once again champion.

During the period 1986 - 1995 I was plagued by upsets and never finished better than 5 - 2. (Several of these games have appeared in *Alabama Chess Antics*.) This was especially frustrating the two or three times I was the highest rated player in the tournament!

I skipped the Bama Championship several years to play elsewhere. I took second in Louisiana and tied for second in Florida, but still no championship.

So you can see that I take state championship bouts very, very seriously. Though it seems that I have been less than lucky.

Now back to August 1997 and one more try!

Round One

I get White against Dr. Ranil Guneratne and play a theoretically approved continuation, but my Class A opponent played very, very solidly; totally without errors I could punish. He even refused to go passive in the ending and I pushed too hard in a drawn ending (my oldest recurring fault!) and got into trouble. Fortunately, my opponent missed forcing the trade of rooks on move 43 which would have given him a won king and pawn ending. I offered a draw on move 48 and with only eight minutes left on his clock my opponent accepted.

Goldsby vs Ranil Guneratne (1824)

(The comments in parentheses are by Jack Mallory.)

1. P - K4 P - QB4 2. N - KB3 P - Q3
3. P - Q4 PxP 4. NxP N - KB3 5. N - QB3 P - KN3 6. B - K3 B - N2 7. P - B3

(Preparing the Yugoslav Attack, a specialty of Goldsby's.)

7. ... O - O 8. Q - Q2 N - QB3 9. B - QB4 B - Q2 10. O - O - O Q - R4 11. P - KR4

(Now both players are attacking!)

11. ... KR - B1 12. B - N3 N - K4 13.

B - R6!? B x B 14. Q x B R x N! 15. P x R 15. Q x BP 16. K - N1 N - B5 17. B x N Q x B



Position after 17. ... Q x B

(It now appears that Dr. Guneratne is equally at home with the Yugoslav!)

18. P - R5!? N x RP 19. R x N P x R 20. Q - N5+ K - B1 21. Q x RP R - QB1 22. Q - R6+ K - K1 23. Q - Q2

(White is down a pawn and his queen is forced to return to the defense. White is not happy!)

23. ... B - R5 24. N - N3 Q - B6

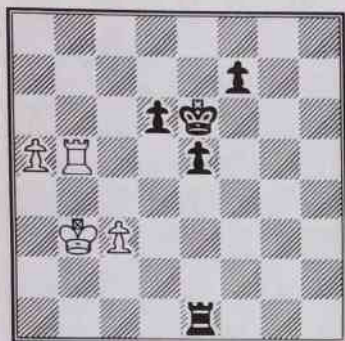
(When ahead, chop wood!)

25. Q x Q R x Q 26. R - R1 R - K6 27. R x P R - K7 28. R - R8+

(“Always check, it might be mate”. Boden)

28 ... K - Q2 29. R - KN8 R - KB7

Q2 32. K - N2 P - K4 33. R - KB8
K - K3 34. R - QN8 P - N3 35. R -
N7? R x NP 36. R x RP P - N4 37.
R - R6 B x N 38. K x B?! R - B7 39.
R - QN6 R x P+ 40. P - B3 R - K6
41. R x NP R x KP 42. P - R4 R - K8
43. P - R5??



Position after 43. P - R5??

43. ... R - QR8 ??

(Time pressure is mounting and Guneratne misses a win. As Goldsby points out, 43. P - R5 loses to 43. ... R - N8+ followed by ... R x R, ... K - Q2 and ... K - B1 with a won ending for Black.)

44. K - N2 R - R5 45. K - N3 R - QR8

(...R - KN5, ...R - KN1 and ... R - QR1 gives Black all the winning chances, but White should hold the draw.)

46. K - N2. White offers a draw which Black accepts. White has 39 minutes left on his clock. Black has 8 minutes left.

I was more than a little discouraged with a draw in round one and considered withdrawing and going home. Though my hopes of winning this tournament were poor, I decided to plod onward.

I play last year's Alabama State Co-Champion, Dr. Rhodes Peele. I snatch a pawn and nearly don't make it out of the opening.

Round Two

Rhodes Peele (1873) vs. Goldsby

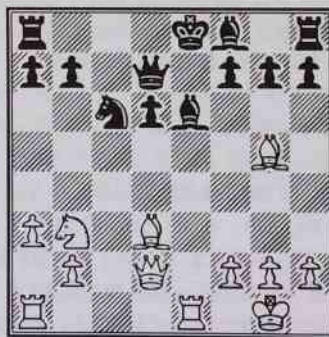
1. P - K4 P - QB4 2. P - QB3 N - QB3 ?!

A move I'd tried on the Internet, but never played in a tournament. I play this move to avoid lines that we have played many times before with Rhodes always doing okay in the opening.

3. P - Q4 P - K4 4. N - KB3 BP x P 5. P x P P x P 6. N x P Q - N3 7. N - N3 N - B3

7. ... P - QR4 8. P - QR4 N - KB3 may be better.

8. B - K3 Q - N5+?! 9. QN - Q2 N x P 10. P - QR3 Q - K2 11. B - Q3 N x N 12. Q x N P - Q3 13. O - O B - K3 14. KR - K1 Q - Q2 15. B - KN5 B - K2



Position before 15. ...B - K2

I avoid 15. ... P-KR3 16. R x B+ with initiative for White.

16. B x B Q x B 17. P - KB4 P - KN3 18. P - KN4?

Black's move is a mistake which seriously and permanently weakens his kingside.

18. ... O - O - O

(Black takes his marbles and runs for home. 18. ... Q - R4 attacking White's loose KNP also looks strong.)

19. P - B5 ?! P x P 20. B x P

If 20. P x P, then 20. ... R - N1+ 21. K - B1 Q - R5 22. P x B Q - R6+, and ...R - N7+ wins White's queen.

20. ... K - N1!

My star move which breaks one pin and prepares to break the other pin while putting my king on a safer square.

21. QR - B1 Q - R5

Breaking the other pin!

22. B x B P x B 23. R - K4 KR - N1 24. Q - K2 P - K4 25. R x N

A desperation sacrifice.

(The breeze around White's king is becoming a major storm, so he chooses to go down fighting.)

25. ... P x R 26. R - N4 + K - R1 27. Q - R6 R x NP+

(The king hunt begins.)

28. R x R Q x R+ 29. K - B2 R - KB1 + 30. K - K1 Q - N8 + 31. K - Q2 R - B7+ 32. K - B3 Q - K8+ 33. resigns.

White has 38 minutes remaining on his clock. Black has 55 minutes.

Commuting back and forth to Pensacola, I only got 4 1/2 hours sleep. I thought I was playing poorly and had no chance of winning the tournament.

When my alarm went off, I wanted more sleep, to stay home and relax, to play with my 8 1/2 month old daughter. (I hear A.J. sometimes wins chess games against his daughter.) However, my friend Erin, who was riding with me, was playing in his first tournament and would probably be bitterly disappointed if he did not get to finish. Also, I had to return Joe Hodge's car to him in Chickasaw. So I had to go, not knowing that my worst games were behind me.

Round Three Goldsby vs. Leo Denton (2058)

1. P - K4 P - Q3 2. P - Q4 N - KB3 3. N - QB3 P - KN3 4. P - KB4 B - N2 5. N - KB3 P - QB4 6. B - N5+ B - Q2 7. P - K5 N - N5 8. P - KR3 N - KR3 9. P - KN4 B x B 10. N x B Q - R4+ 11. N - B3 P x QP 12. Q x P N - QB3 13. Q - K4 Q - N5 14. Q x Q N x Q 15. R - R2 P x P 16. N x P P - B3 17. P - R3 N x P+ 18. R x N P x N 19. N - Q5 R - Q1 20. N - B7+ K - Q2



Position after 20. ... K - Q2

21. P - B5!! N x BP 22. P x N R -

QB1 23. B - R6! R x N 24. R - Q1 + K - B1 25. R x R+ K x R 26. B x B R - KN1 27. B x P+ K - B3 28. P x P R x P 29. K - B2 R - N4 30. B - B3 P - K3 31. R - Q4 P - N3 32. R - KR4 P - KR4 33. R - KB4 P - R3 34. K - B3 K - Q4 35. R - Q4+ K - B3 36. R - K4 K - Q4 37. R - Q4+ K - B4 38. R - Q7 P - R5 39. R - Q3 P - N4 40. K - K4 K - B5 41. B - N4 R - N6 42. P - N3 mate

White had 48 minutes left, Black had 17 minutes left.

This was my best game and restored my confidence! I shall annotate it in depth for a future issue of *Alabama Chess Antics*.

Round Four Goldsby vs Tim Bond (1951)

1. N - KB3!

I play a move that I have never played before since I know Tim knows my Giuoco Piano too well and frequently comes out of that opening with an advantage. A very tough struggle ensues and for a long time I thought I was losing. (Is this the Great A.J. who thinks he is losing?)

1. ... P - Q4 2. P - KN3

(The Barcza System.)

2. ... N - KB3 3. B - N2 P - B3 4. O - O B - N5 5. N - K5 B - KB4 6. P - Q3 QN - Q2 7. N - KB3 P - KR3 8. N - B3 P - K4 9. N - KR4 B - R2 10. P - K4 P - KN4

This may well be too weakening. (It would have frightened me!)

11. N - B5 N - B4 12. Q - K2 P - Q5?! 13. N - Q1 Q - Q2 14. P - KB4

This move is part of the plan I put into motion with my 12th move. If 14. ... BxN, then 15. KP x B Q x BP 16. BP x NP wins a piece.

14. ... NP x P 15. P x P R - KN1 16. P x P N - N5 17. N - Q6+



Position after 17. N - Q6+

Just when I am not really sure I'm going to have the advantage out of the opening, I play a move that turns out very well. My dark square bishop does it all for the rest of the game. This cleric guards my king, dominates key dark squares, attacks, restricts my opponent's king, and even prevents Black's kingside pawn advance! This mitred macho-man's pin even wins a pawn right at the first time control. Finally this bishop's influence makes my queen foray overwhelming.

(Goldsby's 17th move is intuitive and turns out to be much better than he expected. Luck? As Capablanca said, "The good players are always lucky!")

17. ... B x N 18. P x B Q x P 19. B - B4 Q - K3 20. K - R1 O - O 21. N - B2 P - B4 22. N x N P x N 23. P - QR4 P - KR4 24. B - N3 Q - K2 25. Q - B2! KR - B1 26. B - R4!

(continued next page)

(White has the bishop pair and a protected passed pawn. He has winning chances, but Black is defending well. So White tries to stir up a tactical shot.)

26. ... Q - Q3 27. Q - N1! QR - K1 28. P - N3!

(The series of exclamation marks given by Goldsby to White's moves are typical Goldsby. A.J. and I have been friends since he was a young teenager. In all those years, I have rarely known him to think he was not winning. His confidence and skill make him very dangerous, for he is always looking for the win he believes must be there, and frequently finds it. His Life Master title is no accident!

Despite Goldsby's enthusiasm in this game, White has only a very slight edge. However, Black must play very accurately to hold the draw.)

28. ... N - K3 29. R x R R x R 30. R - KB1 N - B5?

(This move may be too aggressive since it leads to the loss of a pawn. Black's play has certainly been impressive up to this point.)

31. B - N3 P - R5 32. B x RP Q - R3 33. B - N3 P - B4

(Perhaps 33. ... NxB trying for a bishops of opposite color ending might give Black better chances.)

34. Q - B2 N - K3 35. Q - K1 N - N4? 36. R x R+ Q x R 37. Q - R5 resigns.

If 37. ... Q-Q1, 38. QxP+ K-Q2 39. QxP+ Kany 40. QXQ+ KxQ 41. B-R4

winning the knight.

(If 37. ... K - Q2 38. Q - B7+ K - K1 39. Q - K5+ Q - K2 40. Q x Q+ K x Q 41. B - R4 with an easy win. White's 37. Q - R5 deserves two exclamation marks since it is an absolute crusher.)

White had one hour and 38 minutes left on his clock. Black had 36 minutes left.

Round Five

This is a key encounter. Mark is a player I greatly respect. He is 4 - 0 for the tournament, having defeated NM Andrew Whatley in round four!

Schulinkamp plays a Trompowski very skillfully in this game, and I slowly get outplayed.

(Horrors! Is Goldsby mellowing in his old age? Perhaps his new daughter is teaching him humility.)

Mark Schulinkamp (2192) vs Goldsby

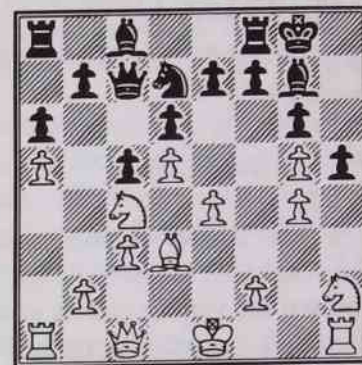
1. P - Q4 N - KB3 2. B - KN5 N - K5 3. P - KR4 P - QB4 4. P - Q5 N x B 5. P x N Q - N3 6. Q - B1 P - KN3 7. P - QB3 B - N2 8. N - Q2 P - Q3 9. P - K4 Q - B2 10. KN - B3 P - QR3 11. P - R4 B - N5 12. N - R2 QB - B1

(Black gives up a tempo, but he is way ahead on the clock, has slightly better pawn structure, and a solid position.)

13. N - B4 P - KR4!? 14. B - Q3 O - O

(Here I am White. Come get me if you can!)

15. P - R5 N - Q2 16. P - KN4!



Position after 16. P - KN4 !

16. ... P - R5!

I have to respond with P - R5. 16. ... P x P? allows 17. N x NP P - N4 18. P x P e.p. N x NP 19. N - R6+ B x N 20. R x B K - N2 21. Q - B4 R - R1 22. R x R K x R 23. Q - R4+ K - N1 24. Q - R6! and Black looks busted.

(Black may not be busted, but he faces a hard draw. The text move, strange as it looks, is better.)

17. N - B1 P - N4 18. P x P e.p. N x NP 19. N x N Q x N 20. N - K3 B - Q2 21. N - B4 Q - N2 22. R x KRP B - N4 23. N - R5 Q - B1 24. B x B?! P x B 26. N - B6 Q - N2 26. P - KB4 R x R

(White is in severe time trouble and Black continues his blitz moves.)

27. Q x R R - R1 28. Q - N1 P - N5 29. P x P P x P 30. White's flag falls.

Black had 23 minutes before the first time control.

Mark's flag fell as he played 30. R - R2. He thinks 30. R - R3 may be better. He believes he has the better game because he is a pawn up, but I believe I have compensation. I have the better minor piece and a

much more secure king plus a queenside attack. Black is O.K. but I am relieved that I don't have to play this one out!

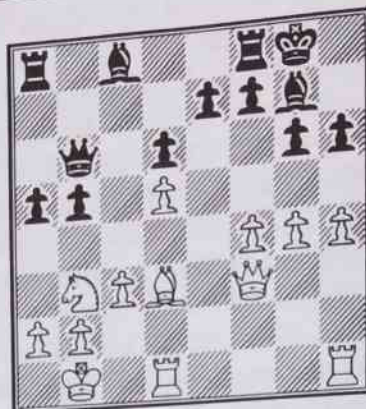
Round Six

I get paired against Andy Reeder, thanks to Nuwan Suriyagoda, who played the various phases of the endgame like a master, drawing Bill Melvin.

Not that I expected Andy to be easy! He has won a U.S. Amateur Champion title. In this tournament he had beaten Dr. Guneratne, who I drew. He had also beaten former master Rick Price in round five. Andy is certainly a rising player to be respected and taken seriously. I took him so seriously, that I spent an hour Sunday night studying the Trompowski and then played to avoid it!

Andy Reeder (2042) vs Goldsby

1. P - Q4 P - KN3 N - KB3 N - KB3
3. B - N5 B - N2 4. QN - Q2 P - Q3 5.
P - K4 O - O 6. B - Q3 N - B3 7. P -
B3 P - KR3 8. B - R4 N - KR4 9. P -
Q5 N - B5 10. B - B1 N - K4 11. N
x N B x N 12. P - KN3 N - KR4 13.
P - KB4 B - N2 14. Q - B3 N - B3
15. B x N B x B 16. O - O - O P - B3
17. P - KN4 Q - R4 18. K - N1 B -
N2 19. P - KR4 P x QP 20. P x P P
- QN4 21. N - N3 Q - N3 22. B - Q3
P - QR4 (diagram next column) 23.
P - R5 P - R5 24. N - B1 P - N5 25.
R - R2 P x P 26. P - N5 R - N1 27. P
- N3 P x QNP 28. N x P Q - R4 29.
R - QB1 R x N+ 30. P x R P - B7+
31. K x P Q - R7+ 32. K - Q1 Q x R
33. P x RP B x P 34. P x P P x P 35.



Position after 22. P - QR4

R x B R x R 36. Q - K4 Q - N8+ 37.
K - Q2 B x P+ 38. K - K2 Q - R7+
K - B3 Q - N6+ 40. K
- K2 40. Q - N5+ 41. K - B2 B - N6+
42. resigns

White had 24 minutes left, Black
had 1 hour 27 minutes left.

I will annotate this game in a
later issue.

Even though I am a resident of
Florida and not eligible for the
Alabama State Chess Championship,
I have finally won a state chess
championship tournament!

Thanks to Camille Gaston, the
City of Chickasaw, and all the
workers for an excellent tournament.

- A. J. Goldsby -
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The author has already sent in
a second manuscript that contains,
among other things, detailed analysis
for his games against Leo Denton
and Andy Reeder. Look for it in the
next issue of *Antics*. - R.P. -

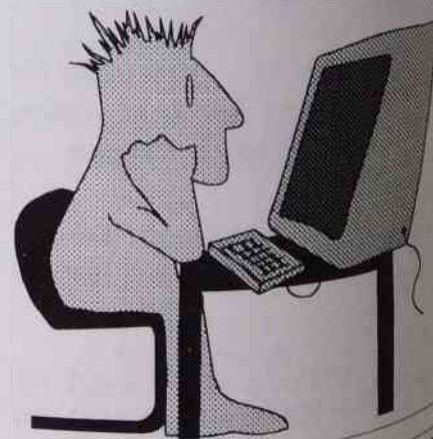
Two Upset Wins (continued from page 5)

4. O - O d6 5. d4 O - O 6. c4 e6 7.
Nc3 Nbd7 8. e4 e5 9. d5 Nb6 10. b3
cd 11. cd Bg4 12. h3 Bxf3 13. Qxf3
Nbd7 14. Ba3 Nc5 15. Rac1 Qa5 16.
Bb2 Rac8 17. Qe2 a6 18. Rc2 Rc7
19. Nd1! Qb6 20. Ne3 Rd7 21. Ne4
Qa7 22. Qe3 b6 23. Rfc1 Rc8 24.
Ba3 Bf8 25. b4 Na4 26. Qb3 b5 27.
Na5 RxR 28. RxR Nb6 29. Ne6 Qb7
30. Bc1 Nc4 31. Qf3 Bg7 32. Bf1
Nb6 33. h4 Rc7 34. Bg5 Nbd7 35.
Bh3 h6 36. Be3 Nb6 37. Kg2 Kh7
38. g4 Nc4



Position after 38. ... Nc4

39. Bxh6 Kxh6 40. g5+ Kh7 41. gf
Bh6 42. h5 Bf4 43. Qg4 g5 44. Qf5+
Kh6 45. Rc3 Rxc6! 46. de Qxc6 47.
Rd3 Nd2 48. f3 Qc1! 49. Rxd2
Qxd2+ 50. Kg1 Be3+ 51. Kh1 Qe1+
52. Bf1 Qxf1+ 53. Kh2 Bf5+ 54.
resigns



Towards the State Championship *by Bill Melvin*

Late August and early September saw me playing a lot of chess. I played (and won) the State Warm-up in Huntsville one weekend and visited Chickasaw the next for a share of second place (behind A.J. Goldsby of Florida). This was good enough for the Alabama State CoChampionship (with Andrew Whatley). Here is my most interesting game from each event:

**Alabama State Championship
Warm-up August 24, 1997
Round 4 Board 1 35/90 SD/30
Queen's Pawn Opening
Andy Reeder Bill Melvin
(2042) (2246)**

1. d4 d5 2.Bg5 ...

I first encountered this move around the time that Andy was born! I remember Ronald Burnett telling me (then I was rated around 1700) how the bishop just bit on air. Well, Andy has given me a newfound respect for this move. True, it looks silly, but Black must complete his development somehow.

2. ... Nf6 3.Bf6 ef6

General principles about capturing towards the center really don't apply here. Black should have compensation for the pawn imbalance (notice that I didn't condemn it as a weakness!) with the bishop pair. Proving it is another matter.

4.e3 f5?

This move is just bad. What on earth could I have been thinking? True, 4.... f5 helps to lock down the

e4 square, but White already gave up on that idea by playing 4. e3. At any rate, Black shouldn't play this move until White shows an intention of playing the e4 break. This pawn becomes a weakness very quickly. Any developing move was better.

5.c4 Bc6?

These are my most interesting games from the State Warm-up and State Championship and not necessarily great games! This move is just plain bad. Any other move is better.

6. Nc3? ...

Andy missed his chance for a big edge. As he pointed out after the game, 6. Qb3 is a big edge for White. After moves like 6. ... b6 (what else?), 7. Nc3, dc, 8. Bc4 Bc4, 9. Qc4, White's advantage is crystal clear.

6. ... dc 7. d5 Bd7

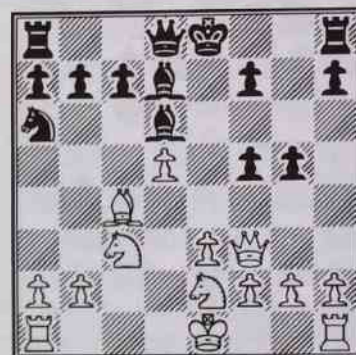
I seem to enjoy throwing chess positions into the Twilight Zone. Black will gladly move his light squared bishop again to fix the d5 pawn deep within his territory. Black's position is nearly playable again.

8.Bc4 Bd6 9.Qf3 Na6 10.Nge2 g5?!

It is understandable why I offered and Andy did not play 10. Ba6, ba6. In positions like this, the bishops are often a decisive factor before the knights can hope to position themselves to pick off some weak pawns.

I missed a better chance here. I should have played 10. ... Nb4 here while Andy was planning 11. O-O

which allows 11. ... g5 and a banzai kingside attack which is not trivial to refute. After my move, I just get weak pawns on the kingside without a king to act as a target.



Position after 10. ... g5?!

**11.Nd4 g4 12.Qe2 Nc5 13.Qc2?
Qf6**

Andy still has the better position, but careless moves like 13. Qc2 only allow me to develop naturally.

14.O-O-O O-O-O 15. Ndb5!? ...

While precise moves are hard to suggest here for both sides, White's best plan probably involves leaving the knight on the dominating d4 square.

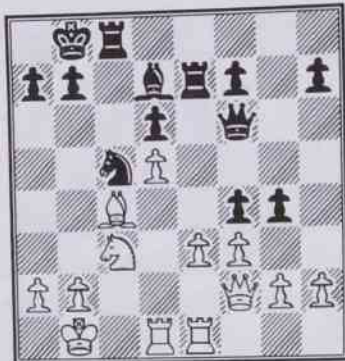
**15. ... Kb8 16.Nd6 cd6 17.f3 Rc8
18. Kb1 ...**

I haven't really been commenting on the tactics which are flying around. Moves like 18. b4 run into fun moves like 18. ... Na4, 19. Na4 Ba4, 20. Qa4 Rc4 where Black has his dream position. Still, Black is seemingly hanging on by only a thread.

18. ... Rhe8 19.Rhe1 Re7

Black is still holding this mess together. I was concerned about 19. b4 during the game, but Black seems to survive the tactics after 19. ... Ne4 and do rather well. (Not 19. ... Na4, 20. Na4 Ba4, 21. Qa4 Rc4, 22. Qe8)

20. Qf2 f4



Position after 20. ... f4

I finally am beginning to like Black's position. The White bishop on c4 will stay ugly for a long while and the weak Black pawns are trying to exchange themselves off.

21.fg4 Bg4 22.Rd4?? ...

This is the game loser. White had to try 22. Rc1 where I was considering weird stuff like 22. ... Bf5, 23. Ka1 Bd3, 24. Bb3 and then what is Black to do? Lots of other possibilities (such as 23. ... Nd3) present themselves, but I am not able to find a clear win for Black in any of them.

Just plugged the position into my computer and it felt that 23. ... Ne4 gave Black an edge of over a pawn until White continued 24. Ne4 Be4, 25. ef4 and our fair weather silicon friend decided that White had an edge of over a pawn! On to the deathshot...

22. ... Re3!

It's over.

23.Rd2 Bf5 24.Ka1 Rc3 25. bc3 Qc3 26.Rb2 Na4! 27.resigns

0 - 1

1997 Alabama State Championship
September 1, 1997

Round 6 Board 2 30/90 SD/60

French Defense Wing Gambit

Bill Melvin Mark Schulingkamp
(2246) (2192)

1.e4 e6

NOT what I wanted to see! I had played long endgames in each of the first five rounds. I won the first two (with a swindle from a dead lost position against Andy Reeder in round two) and then drew three long games in a row. Well, from my tournament standing I knew that a draw was equivalent to a loss. I HAD to play to win at all costs. I've been having lots of problems against the French Defense of late. I've tried everything and have yet to find a satisfactory solution to the 'French problem.' I took a few minutes here and considered a weird Milner-Barry gambit line with little theory behind it. Still, I would be effectively sacrificing a pawn for complications and I'm really not sure I trust White's position in these lines. I could play an 'ordinary' system against the French, but I really don't want to be given a French lesson under these circumstances. Without further ado, I confidently played...

2.Nf3 d5 3. e5 c5 4. b4 cb 5.d4 Nc6

What is White doing to himself? Well folks, this is chess without a net! White is aiming for a

Sicilian Wing Gambit formation whereby Black cannot play Bf5 (which is common in the Sicilian Wing Gambit). While plans involving a3 are always in the air, my plan was to just ignore the material deficit and put all of my pieces on good squares. Black has burned 28 minutes so far to White's 5 minutes. Black was clearly unfamiliar with White's silliness and was using lots of time to sort out the possibilities.

6.Bd3 Nh6 7.Bh6 gh6

Mark criticized my decision to capture on h6 in the post-mortem. When I replied that I just wanted to unbalance the position, he truthfully stated that the position was already unbalanced enough! Nonetheless, I really didn't want Black to play g6, Nf5, etc. Plus, I rationalized that an eventual f4-f5 break for White would be much easier to realize without Black having a g pawn. Finally, I decided that the c1 bishop was really my bad bishop and that in a closed position knights could easily become better than bishops. Right or wrong, this was my reasoning.

8.O-O Bg7 9.Qe2 Qb6 10.Qe3 O-O
11.c4 ...

This was a tough decision to make. I had only spent 13 minutes up to this point (compared to Mark's 53 minutes), but took a full 7 minutes on this move. White is offering Black many options with this move and some of them involve making the b4 pawn a real threat sooner than White would want. Still, White cannot allow Black to consolidate and radical measures are probably called for.

11. ... dc 12.Bc4 Ne7 13.Nbd2 Nd5
14.Qe4 f5

(continued on page 14)

My Best Game from the Denker *by Andrew Whatley*

Andrew Whatley was cowinner (with Andrei Zaremba) of this year's Denker Tournament of High School Champions. Below he annotates the game he considers his best from this event.

**1997 Denker - 8/13-97
Round 3, Board 3**

**Andrew Whatley William Surlow
AL (2249) PA (2126)**

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 e6 3. Bg5 c5 4. e3 Qb6

One of the most challenging lines against the Torre. Here White has a choice:

a) 5. Qc1 and play passively allowing Black to virtually equalize after 5. ... Ne4 6. Bf4 d5 7. c3 Bd6 or

b) 5. Nbd2, the gambit variation full of lively play.

Because my opponents had never played 4. ... Qb6 before, I was faced with a difficult decision. 5. Qc1 did not appeal to me, and I remembered little about the gambit lines other than what I had studied a year ago. However, my main objective for the game was a win. After 8 minutes of thinking, I played 5. Nbd2.

5. Nbd2 Qxb2

(His 9 minutes of thinking gave me added confidence here.)

6. Bd3 cd 7. ed Nc6 !?

I only remembered the book move 7. ... Qc3 8. O - O with unclear

play. What was I to do now? First of all, Black threatens ... Nxd4. White's moves are:

a) 8. Nb3 Bb4+ 9. Kf1 (9. Nfd2 Nxd4; 9. Bd2 Bxd2+) Qa3 10. Bb5 Bc3! - the Black queen escapes and Black enjoys a great game.

b) 8. Be3. I quickly dismissed this move due to its passivity and Black's response 8. ... Nb4!

c) 8. Rb1

c1) 8. ... Qxa2 9. Ra1

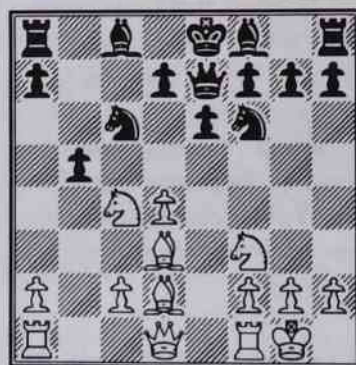
c11) 9. ... Qb2 10. Nb3 (10. ... Bb4+ 11. Bd2 Bxd2+ 12. Qxd2 Δ O - O and Rfb1) Δ O - O, Qe2, Rfb1, Bd2 wins Black's queen.

c12) 9. ... Qd5 10. Bxf6 gf 11. Ne4 Be7 12. c4 Qh5 13. d5! a very unclear position arises after 13. ... Ne5 14. Be2.

c2) 8. ... Qa3 9. Rb3 Qe7 (9. ... Qxa2 10. Nc4! Δ Ra3 +/-; 9. ... Qa5 10. O - O unclear) 10. c4 d5! Black seems to solidify this position.

d) 8. Nc4 (the game continuation). White ensures the protection of the d-pawn while driving the queen away.

8. Nc4 Qb4+ 9. Bd2 Qe7 10. O - O b5?



Position after 10 ... b5?

The mistake which causes Black his first major weakness. Instead of trying to play a flank attack, Black should immediately play 8. ... d5. There follows 9. Ne3 Qc7 10. c4 Be7 11. Qb3 O - O 12. Rael. Although White still has threats, Black seems to have consolidated for the most part. After 10. b5, Black is forced to defend more before developing.

11. Ne3 a6 12. a4 ba 13. Rxa4 ?!

13. d5! first causes Black more problems as the knight is forced to retreat and White's attack soon breaks through after Re1 and Rxa4. Unfortunately, the text move allows Black to nearly consolidate after ...

13. ... d5 14. c4

White must attack the center (instead of winning the a-pawn) immediately before Black can develop.

14. ... dc

... Qc7 followed by ... Be7 was better. The text allows White to break through in the center with 15. Bxc4 and 16. d5. However, I play ...

15. Nxc4 Qd8

If 15. ... Nd5, 16. Be4!

16. Na5

With the loss of the center break, White focuses on gaining tempos before Black is allowed to develop.

16. ... Ne7?

16. ... Bd7 developing was better.

17. Ne5 Bd7 18. Nb7 Qc7 19. Nc5!

Black is now lost.

19. ... Ned5 20. Nxd7 Nxd7 21. Bb5! Nb6 22. Bxd7+ Nxd7 23. Qf3 Nb6



Position after 23. ... Nb6

24. Ba5?

Here I miss 24. Rc1!. If 24. ... Qa7 25. Rxa6 Qxa6 26. Qf7+ Kd8 27. Bg5+ Be7 Qxe7 mate.

24. ... Rb8 25. Nc4 Be7 26. Nxb6 Rxb6 27. Bxb6 Qxb6 28. Qa8+ Bd8

Due to White's inability to find the easy win, he now is faced with a problem. If he trades queens, he will be forced to play an exchange up rook ending, but with all the pawns on one side of the board, which may not necessarily be won. Therefore, he must create an imbalance to ensure a win.

29. d5! a5

If 29. ... exd5 30. Re1+ Kd7 31. Rxa6. If 29. ... O - O 30. Rxa6 Q moves 31. d6! The d-pawn wins for

White. After 29. ... a5 White's d-pawn controls the game.

30. Qc6+ Kf8 31. Qxb6 Bxb6 32. Rb1 Bd8 33. d6 h5 34. Rc4 f5 35. Rc8 resigns.

After 35. ... Ke8 36. Rb7, Black cannot prevent 37. Re7+ Kf8 38. Rxd8 mate.

(continued from page 12)



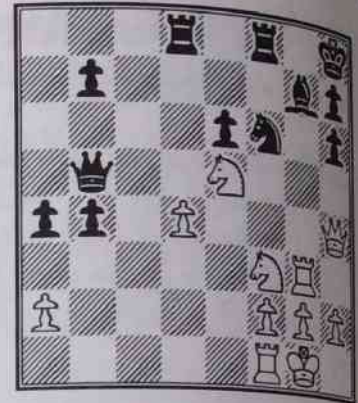
Position after 14. ... f5

Black cannot allow White to continue to build an attack so severe measures are needed. Black only has 11 minutes remaining for 16 moves while white has a full 63 minutes for these moves.

15. ef ep Nf6 16. Qh4 Bd7 17. Ne5 Bb5

I'll admit that I was moving fast here in blitz mode as I didn't firmly believe in White's position. After taking a couple minutes to consider the various options (including an interesting Exchange sacrifice with 18. Bb3), I decided upon my next move which adds fuel to the kingside with tempo.

18. Rab1 a5 19. Rb3 Rad8 20. Rg3 Kh8 21. Ndf3 Bc4 22. Nc4 Qb5 23. Nce5 a4?!



Position after 23. ... a4 ?!

The post mortem revealed plenty of exciting possibilities after 23. ... Qe8. We were unable to firmly get our hands around the possibilities. Black seems to have a decisive advantage, but White's activity is annoying in just about every variation. White's 24th move must have been very hard for Black to meet with a hanging flag.

24. Ng5! hg5?

Incredibly, the knight cannot be taken. Black needed to try 24. ... Qe8 and hope for the best. White must decide between 25. Ngf3 and the super-complicated 25. f4. Gut instinct prefers Black although white's activity must not be under-rated.

25. Qg5! Qf1

Confession time: I was expecting 25. ... Rd7 and totally missed 26. Ng6 snaring the queen. I would like to think that I wouldn't have missed this in the game, but I was still moving quickly.

26. Kf1 flag

This whole game was one long calculated risk which paid off. While I can't see playing like this all of the time (although it would be fun!), it does seem reasonable in a must win situation. Now, where did I put the rest of my gambit books...

44th Alabama State Championship - 8/30/97 to 9/1/97 - Open Section

#	Player	Rtg	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
1	Andrew Whatley	2249	W 22	D 11	W 19	L 4	W 14	W 13	4.5
2	Bill Melvin	2246	W 23	W 12	D 8	D 14	D 19	W 4	4.5
3	A. J. Goldsby (Fl.)	2224	D 24	W 21	W 11	W 18	W 4	W 12	5.5
4	Mark Schulingkamp (Ga.)	2192	W 25	W 16	W 9	W 1	L 3	L 2	4.0
5	Brent Inman	2191	W 26	L 18	L 14	W 30	W 35	W 19	4.0
6	Richard Frye (Fl.)	2143	W 27	W 17	D 18	L 8	L 16	L 24	2.5
7	Joe Jurjevich	2143	W 28	L 19	W 26	L 13	W 21	W 18	4.0
8	Richard Price	2082	W 29	W 34	D 2	W 6	L 12	D 16	4.0
9	David Kittinger	2074	W 20	W 40	L 4	D 16	D 23	WD	3.0
10	Ulrie Aeria	2065	D 30	D 24	W 28	L 19	W 38	W 15	4.0
11	Leo Denton	2058	W 31	D 1	L 3	L 11	WD	-	1.5
12	Andy Reeder	2042	W 32	L 2	W 30	W 24	W 8	L 3	4.0
13	Robert Pruitt	2033	D 33	D 30	W 31	W 7	Dbye	D 1	3.5
14	Lester Bedell (Ga.)	2029	Dbye	W 33	W 5	D 2	L 1	W 23	4.0
15	Steve Tyson	2014	L 34	D 39	W 40	W 37	D 18	L 10	3.0
16	Jere Roland	2000	W 35	L 4	W 34	D 9	W 6	D 8	4.0
17	Ray Downs	1988	W 37	L 6	D 35	D 23	Dbye	W 40	3.0
18	Tim Bond	1951	W 36	W 5	D 6	L 3	D 15	L 7	3.0
19	Nuwan Suriyagoda	1916	W 38	W 7	L 1	W 10	D 2	L 5	3.5
20	John Morcos	1876	L 9	D 29	D 33	W 31	D 24	W 26	3.5
21	Rhodes Peele	1873	D 39	L 3	D 29	W 32	L 7	W 37	3.0
22	Caesar Lawrence	1844	L 1	L 31	W 36	W 33	Dbye	W 35	3.5
23	Thomas Campbell	1839	L 2	W 32	D 37	W 17	D 9	L 3	3.0
24	Ranil Guneratne	1824	D 3	D 10	W 39	L 12	D 20	W 6	3.5
25	Jack Gwin	1817	L 4	L 35	L 32	D 40	W 36	W 31	2.5
26	Raymond Quillian (Ga.)	1815	L 5	W 36	L 7	D 34	W 39	L 20	2.5
27	George Tudor	1812	L 6	L 37	L 38	W 36	L 40	W 33	2.0
28	Cilff. Giampieto (Fl.)	1800	L 7	W 38	L 10	L 39	WD	-	1.0

#	Player	Rtg	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
29	Lawrence Fisk	1799	L 8	D 20	D 21	L 38	WD	-	1.0
30	Walter Schaetzle	1790	D 10	D 13	L 12	L 5	L 32	WD	1.0
31	Scott Helton	1733	L 11	W 22	L 13	L 20	D 33	L 25	1.5
32	Lars Britt	1706	L 12	L 23	W 25	L 21	W 30	L 38	2.0
33	Frank Grenier	1689	D 13	L 14	D 20	L 22	D 31	L 27	1.5
34	William Hendry, III	1686	W 15	L 8	L 16	D 26	D 37	L 39	2.0
35	Constantine Ananiadis	1668	L 16	W 25	D 17	W 11	L 5	L 22	2.5
36	Janson Selvage	1615	L 18	L 26	L 22	L 27	L 25	Wbye	1.0
37	James Bowen	1605	L 17	W 27	D 23	L 15	D 34	L 21	2.0
38	Valerie Hodgson	1600	L 19	L 28	W 27	W 29	L 10	W 32	3.0
39	Xavier Martine	1599	D 21	D 15	L 24	W 28	L 26	W 34	3.0
40	Scott Miller	1570	Wbye	L 9	L 15	D 25	W 27	L 17	2.5

44th Alabama State Championship - 8/30/97 to 9/1/97 - Reserve Section

1	John O'Connor	1588	W 24	L 13	W 27	W 12	L 11	L 22	3.0
2	Wallace Fard	1583	W 25	W 14	L 13	W 15	D 16	D 21	4.0
3	James Richardson	1544	W 26	W 15	W 17	W 13	D 6	W 5	5.5
4	Josh Wakerfield	1541	L 21	W 32	D 20	WF23	W 14	L 13	3.5
5	John Caldwell	1506	D 27	W 44	W 22	W 42	W 21	L 3	4.5
6	Steve Nowlin	1500	W 29	W 16	W 18	D 21	D 3	W 11	5.0
7	Charles Ashmore	1499	W 30	L 17	W 24	L 14	W 26	W 12	4.0
8	Mohamed Abdel-Ghany	1496	W 28	L 21	W 26	L 16	W 24	W 14	4.0
9	Walter Higginbotham	1490	W 31	L 18	W 25	D 17	W 19	D 16	4.0
10	Lamar Causey	1485	W 32	L 22	W 29	W 18	D 13	L 42	3.5
11	Allen Woodard	1477	W 33	W 41	L 21	W 22	W 1	L 6	4.0
12	John Betancourt	1462	W 34	L 42	W 28	L 1	W 25	L 7	3.0
13	Thomas Elmes	1456	W 35	W 1	W 2	L 3	D 10	W 4	4.5
14	Thomas Wesson	1450	W 36	L 2	W 30	L 7	L 4	L 8	3.0
15	Kevin Crisler	1448	W 37	L 3	W 31	L 2	D 30	L 28	2.5
16	Joe Hodge (Fl.)	1440	W 38	L 6	W 41	W 8	D 2	D 9	4.0

#	Player	Rtg	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Tot
17	David Adams (Ga.)	1420	W 39	W 7	L 3	D 9	L 42	W 23	3.5
18	Richard Ellis	1400	W 40	W 9	L 6	L 10	L 28	W 31	3.0
19	Fred Wood	1396	L 41	D 33	W 44	W 20	L 9	W 30	3.5
20	Lawrence Schober	1328	L 42	W 34	D 4	L 19	W 39	W 44	3.5
21	Shafer Gaston	1310	W 4	W 8	W 11	D 6	L 5	D 2	4.0
22	William Berry	1293	W 43	W 10	L 5	L 11	W 31	W 1	4.0
23	Chad Wilbanks	1289	D 44	L 27	W 33	LF 4	W 29	L 17	2.5
24	Brian Brown	1280	L 1	W 35	L 7	W 27	L 8	W 32	3.0
25	Sherman Ashmore	1265	L 2	W 36	L 9	W 32	L 12	L 39	2.0
26	Nicholas Elmes	1251	L 3	W 37	L 8	W 36	L 7	L 41	2.0
27	Brian McCormick	1221	D 5	W 23	L 1	L 24	L 44	Dbye	2.0
28	Don Yessick	1158	L 8	W 39	L 12	W 35	W 18	W 15	4.0
29	Stephen Webb	1063	L 6	W 38	L 10	L 39	L 23	L 34	1.0
30	Theo. Pierre, III(La.)	1026	L 7	W 40	L 14	W 38	D 15	L 19	2.5
31	Daniel Friedline	949	L 9	W 43	L 15	W 41	L 22	L 18	2.0
32	Kendra King	946	L 10	L 4	W 37	L 25	W 38	L 24	2.0
33	Kevin DeAndrade	946	L 11	D 19	L 23	L 44	W 37	W 36	2.5
34	James DeAndrade	946	L 12	L 20	L 39	D 37	W 43	W 29	2.5
35	Gary Williams	919	L 13	L 24	W 40	L 28	L 41	W 43	2.0
36	Sean Wilson	893	L 14	L 25	W 43	L 26	W 40	L 33	2.0
37	Uche Afrika	857	L 15	L 26	L 32	D 34	L 33	Wbye	1.5
38	Toni Williams	660	L 16	L 29	Wbye	L 30	L 32	L 40	1.0
39	Aaron Brown (Fl.)	Unr	L 17	L 28	W 34	W 29	L 20	W 25	3.0
40	Chad Crippen	Unr	L 18	L 30	L 35	W 43	L 36	W 38	2.0
41	John Smith	Unr	W 19	L 11	L 16	L 31	W 35	W 26	3.0
42	Alfonso Torres	Unr	W 20	W 12	Dbye	L 5	W 17	W 10	4.5
43	Kyle Williams	Unr	L 22	L 31	L 36	L 40	L 34	L 35	0.0
44	Brandon Wright	Unr	D 23	L 5	L 19	W 33	W 27	L 20	2.5

The Chess Life by Bobby N. Edwards

This year (1997) marks my 25th anniversary in playing chess. Yes, like so many of the chess players of 1972, I was a "Fischer Boomer". One of the things I enjoy most about chess is the traveling. Being a "Weekend Warrior" can be quite educational. There is however one scene from the movie "Searching for Bobby Fischer" that really hits home with me. It was the scene during the parent-teacher conference, and the teacher says "It's funny you travel to all those cities, but all your son remembers are the hotels!" There is a lot of truth in that statement.

One of the first really nice hotels I remember was the Hyatt House Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama. It was the site of the 54th Southern Open in July of 1975. What a great hotel that was. First class all the way. I think it was later sold and goes by another name today. After that weekend, I said to myself "I could get used to this! Five days living like a regular person and Two days like a KING!"

In January 19th-20th of 1985 I played in the Nashville Open held at the Hilton Airport Inn. This tournament began rather uneventfully, but turned out to be "The Weekend from Hell!" That weekend was so bad, that when I recently went to look up some of the games I played, I found I had no record of it at all. I had psychologically blocked it from my mind and my records! It began Saturday, just before dark. We were just starting the third round when it began to snow. I had not followed the weather forecast and this was a rather pleasant surprise for me. As nightfall fell, the snow continued and it was fun seeing the weary travelers coming in and the hotel dealing with the run on rooms. The management quickly doubled the rate, but this did not stop them. They kept coming until it was packed. As I went to bed I could hear the 18-wheelers and the snarled traffic just outside my window on I40. It seemed to be getting worse.

I awoke the next morning to a rather chilly room. I turned on the TV and channel 4, NBC was talking about -20 below zero! I thought they were kidding or something - but as daylight protruded I could see it was true. The storm had left about 10-12 inches of snow and then the cold air had piled in behind that. Most of the players decided to skip round 5 and start home early and so did I. However most of the cars would not start - frozen up. Some were giving up and just waiting until the next day. My car, on the other hand started just fine and I waved at all that were stranded as I whirled out of the parking lot toward the interstate. I

had forgotten the one basic rule of car maintenance during cold weather: (1) Always let your car warm up first before driving it immediately. About 5 miles down the road, my car started overheating, all kinds of lights came on and the engine began to die. I made it to the first exit where I found a hospital, a place I knew would be open.

I was in a mess! About broke and no credit cards to my name - my room already gone at the hotel, and no buses until the next morning. I called home but that was of little help as they could do nothing. Fortunately I had a cousin who lived in Nashville, so after 5 hours in the ER room at the hospital, my cousin picked me up at the hospital and I spent the night with her family. To make a long story shorter - I borrowed bus money from my cousin and caught a bus home the next morning where I arrived and went straight to work. I got my car out of a Nashville repair shop the next weekend. For years afterwards I carried extra credit cards. It was a most humbling experience for me. I was totally out of control. I really hate that when it happens.

In October of 1985 chess took me to Washington D.C., our great capitol. The hotel was the Best Western Rosslyn Westpark. I was in pretty good shape back then and believe me I must have been to do all that I did that weekend. First of all I spent about 15 hours getting there as I took the scenic route through the Blue Ridge Parkway Mountains. The hotel was very nice. The first day I was there I met a beautiful girl from Texas who happened to be leaving the day I arrived! I went down to the local McDonalds and saw my first "skin-head". Yes I met some interesting people that trip. In three rounds I played an Iranian, a Russian classical pianist and a guy who lived in his van! The guy from Iran was very apologetic about the way his country was treating the United States. At times he seemed fearful of his life. The Russian was a very interesting guy. You see at this tournament the Hotel bar was only steps away and this guy like to drink. During our five hour game he smoked and drank constantly. I kept maneuvering in a Ruy Lopez thinking soon he would get sick and pass out, but it never happened. He could hold his liquor as good as he could play chess. And the guy who lived in the van? Well all I remember was his girlfriend was fine! That next morning - on Sunday I got up early to see the sites. I saw the D.C. mall area and all the monuments before the round started. I guess I walked 5-10 miles that morning. All

told a trip to remember.

In January, 1986 chess took me to Hot Springs, Arkansas. Here I stayed at the Arlington Hotel and resort Spa. This grand old hotel has been around for years. It has wined and dined presidents and gangsters alike. It was here I achieved my highest rating to date of 2085.

The trip started rather badly as my Gulf (BP) gas card was not accepted in Arkansas. I had never read the fine print and this really hurt my cash situation. The Arlington has the look and feel of the 1920's or 1930's and has been remodeled in that tradition. Many of the chess players enjoyed quite an education after they realized the lady who dressed in 1920's outfit in the lobby actually was a call girl who worked out of the hotel! She could be seen there, reading or sitting talking with pass-her-bys almost everyday. The guys would watch from the second floor balcony as she played out her most unusual role. The hotel had a direct connection with the famous hot springs and the fountains overflowed with mineral water. The water had a very smooth but heavy taste. I was later told the manager of the hotel was a chess player and that was why we were able to acquire the hotel as a playing site. However, I must assume that he lost his job, since we were never invited back in the years hence.

In January, 1990 chess took me to Asheville, North Carolina where I stayed at the famous Grove Park Inn. This is a splendid hotel built of solid granite. The main lobby or "Great Hall" is 120 feet by 80 feet and has massive fireplaces that can burn 12 foot logs. A baby-grand piano in the main lobby entertains guests while they dance or sit and sip champagne. Built in 1913, the Inn has been the host to Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, and several presidents. Nestled among the Blue Ridge Mountains the air is clean and clear. This trip I was also able to see the Biltmore Estate which was not far from the hotel.

In March of 1995 I played in one of the most peaceful and relaxing tournaments I have ever had the pleasure of being in. The hotel was the Ramada Resort Oceanfront Hotel in Daytona Beach, Florida. The chess rooms had all glass oceanfront views. I must say if you have never played chess while listening to the ocean waves break, you have not lived! It was a double pleasure for someone like me who has trouble sleeping well. The breaking waves and sea breezes do a body good.

Finally we come to one of my latest chess trips which may also be the funniest. The tournament was the U.S. Class Championships. It took place in October 1994 at the luxurious Orlando Hilton North; Orlando, Florida. I had gotten a good Orlando airline fare, so I flew. Not hav-

ing done so in awhile, I forgot to rent a car - and there were no shuttles to my hotel. I had only begun to worry when I was tapped on the shoulder by a tall man in uniform. He explained how his appointed ride had not shown and how he could take me instead. I agreed although I thought the price kinda steep at \$50. What was I going to ride in - a limo? Well the answer was Yes!

So there I was being driven down the streets of Orlando like one of the stars of the Rich and Famous. Half way there, the driver interrupts my Cosmo article and Dr. Pepper to tell me he is calling ahead to see if the room is verified. He gets on his phone and says to the hotel "Mr. Edwards arriving in 10 minutes - can you check the reservation?" They yelled back "Who?" After several minutes of this, I said just tell them I am in the chess tournament. I guess some people just can't get any respect! I eventually got a rental car anyway and a tournament that was supposed to have been a very cheap trip turned out to one of the most expensive trips I have taken.

I will close this article with an episode that occurred during one of the Huntsville City championships. I was forced to play a make-up game on a Saturday at our regular meeting place the Senior Citizens Center during the late 70's. When we started the game, it seemed we had the entire building to ourselves. Occasionally someone would come by and we would explain to them what was going on and they would soon leave. However, around 5:00 PM people seem to be gathering and staying. Neither my opponent nor I asked what was going on, as we secretly liked the attention. Along about 6:00 PM a man arrived with a microphone and record player. He whispered something to our tournament director and our TD told him we were about finished. The man with the mike said we could finish, but he hoped we didn't mind a little noise. You see, this man was the "caller" and our game was smack dab in the middle of the dance room floor. For the next 15 to 20 minutes we finished our game while an actual square dance went on around us. This must have been a site to behold. I doubt a chess game could be played under more bizarre circumstances.

So, what do all these stories have in common or as they say "the moral of the story is". I guess the lesson to be learned here, if there is one, is that life goes on; "life finds a way". No matter how hard we try to plan our lives, like the armies on a chessboard the "unexpected", the "bizarre", the trials and tribulations always find a way into our worlds, even worlds as ordered as chess. There is no such thing as the "chess life" - just Life!

Who Played the First Chess Game in Alabama?

by Bobby N. Edwards

Tracing the early steps of chess in Alabama begins with a history lesson. The first known European explorers were of Spanish descent and arrived around Mobile Bay in 1519. From the north, the famed explorer Hernando de Soto with an army of 500 men, entered the interior of Alabama from the Tennessee River valley in 1540. We can only speculate that these early explorers did not carry with them a chess set. Although our best bet for finding the earliest game of chess in Alabama would be with an aristocrat or a man of education, we have few written records to go on. Surely an early contender was Paul Morphy of New Orleans. Paul came to Alabama in December, 1850 as a student at Spring Hill College. Located in what is now Mobile, Spring Hill College was founded by the Society of Jesus in 1830, and flourishes to this day. Records show that Morphy played chess while in school there with his good friend Charles Maurian. During his college days at Spring Hill, 1850-1854 he played several games. There are also records of his play in Mobile, Alabama in 1855 with his good friend the Honorable Judge Alexander B. Meek. Judge Meek (B:1814) had settled in Mobile early in life having relocated from South Carolina.

However, it may have been another famous American who played the earliest game of chess in Alabama. It seems that Aaron Burr, the famous vice-president, played chess. Most of us remember Aaron Burr from history as the winner of the famous dual with Alexander Hamilton in 1804. With warrants out for his arrest Burr fled south and with the help of a friend General James Wilkinson planned a invasion of Mexico along with other grandiose plans. Wilkinson, however,

betrayed Burr and told Jefferson of their plans. Soon after, a reward of \$2,000 dollars was issued for Burr with the charge of treason. In 1807, Burr a wanted man - came into a small Louisiana Territory town called Wakefield where he was recognized by a country lawyer - Nicholas Perkins. Perkins rode back to Mannahubba Bluff where he borrowed a canoe to take Burr down river to the nearest fort - Fort Stoddert, located near where the Tombigbee and Alabama rivers merge.

At Fort Stoddert there were no facilities for housing such a distinguished prisoner such as Burr. Therefore he placed under house arrest by Lieutenant Edmund P. Gaines who was in charge of the fort. There Burr nursed Gaines' sick brother, taught Mrs. Gaines a number of new recipes, discussed literature, *and in the evenings played chess*. All these events are well documented by the journals left by Aaron Burr. He was returned to Richmond, Virginia where he was tried and acquitted for treason by Chief Justice John Marshall. Afterwards Burr left for Europe where he tried to enlist the help of Napoleon in a plan to conquer Florida. We find many journal entries of his continued chess play during his time abroad. He returned in 1812 to practice law in New York and died there in 1836. Although he did many questionable things it was never proven he did anything actually illegal.

[To chess players near Fort Stoddert and the Mobile area] Is there anything left of this fort today? I would like to know. B. Edwards write to me

Anti General Principles *by Bill Melvin*



Lots of books have been written on general principles in chess. For each general principle, there are usually many examples of positions where the principles are simply wrong. These exceptions even make for some good general principles ...

1. It is usually best to capture *away* from the center ... in knight and pawn or king and pawn endings.

I frequently comment that the side with the most rook pawns has the advantage in knight and pawn endings. While this may sound absurd, it does have a positional basis. Knights simply run out of moves as they near the edge of the board. They aren't even usually effective blockaders on the rook's file. Doubled rook pawns can often be the ultimate killer threat!

For kings, they have a long way to go to catch a rook pawn. Once they capture one, they are seven moves away from the rook pawn on the other side of the board. So, rook pawns are often instantly decisive here as well. To further illustrate this, let's play a little game: 1) take the two kings and two White pawns; 2) put the White king on the back rank; 3) place the pawns on White's third rank so that White wins with Black on move and regardless of where the Black king is located; 4) invent a new rule where the White king cannot leave the back rank.

Okay, time is up. Where did you put the White pawns? If you don't have at least one rook pawn then you missed it! The Black king will start next to one of the White pawns and capture it on the first move. White wins with the worst possible king position due to the power of rook pawns!

2. Knights and bishops are *better* than rooks ... in many positions. Powerful Exchange sacrifices are hidden in many of your chess games. You may not find them until you 'accidentally' drop an Exchange, but they are there. Rooks aren't worth that much more than bishops and knights. They are horrible on defense and the slightest advantage can lead to a successful Exchange sacrifice.

3. Bishops of opposite colors are *not* drawish ... in certain situations.

This has to be the oldest drawing tool around. Naturally, these are drawish, but there are plenty of 'ifs' to go around here. In pure bishops of opposite color endings, the inferior side only draws if a blockade can be established. So, if White can get a two pawn advantage and use her king to escort one of the pawns then the win is trivial.

Additional material brings out another side of the opposite colored bishops. A pair of rooks can give the superior side excellent winning chances where the pure bishop ending would be trivially drawn. It is harder to establish a blockade with rooks around. Never trade rooks from the superior side of an opposite colored bishop ending unless the bishop ending is a trivial win.

Add queens and the true nature of opposite colored bishops is shown. These aren't usually drawish at all. In fact, it has been said that whoever is attacking in such a position is effectively a piece up! When one side owns the light squares and the other side owns the dark squares, the tension can be incredible. Draws are a rarity in such situations.

So much for general principles. Next time you hear someone categorically state 'Always...' or 'Never...', just turn around what they are saying to invent a new chess general principle - an anti general principle!



Scholastic Section



Chess Parents

Chess Parents is a series of articles from the parent's perspective of a chess-playing child. Many of our readers are 'chess parents' and the plan is to have a different author every issue. The articles in this series can be about anything as long as they mention a parent, child, and chess. We desperately need contributions to keep this series going, so send in your story! - Bill Melvin.

Help, I'm a Chess Dad by Thomas Young

This article is part of an on-going series on chess parenting. If you're a "new" chess parent, this article is for you. You're not alone and you're not the only one whose child has beat them at this marvelously complicated game.

It all started innocently enough...Your child came home from school one day and announced that they were learning this game called chess. "It's lots of fun, Dad!" they told you. Peering back into the dark recesses of your mind, you vaguely recall that this game is VERY complicated and certainly must be too difficult for your sweet, loving, angelic, happy-go-lucky child.

If you ever played chess in your younger days, it wasn't long before that angelic child challenged you to a game. Under the impression that your superior intellect would prevail in such a match, you foolishly agreed to play. You won the first game...maybe you even won it quite handily... which further reinforced your belief that it would be a long time before this would be a challenge. And so, you went back to your cleaning, or lawn-mowing, or work, and never gave it a second thought.

In a few days, another challenge was issued and accepted. This second game wasn't quite so easy. At some point in the game, a thought crossed your mind, "Uh oh, I'm

going to have to really play this game." Of course, you didn't let on that you were concerned. You smiled and played on, hopeful that your offspring hadn't noticed your insecurity, and yes, you won that game too.

Finally, "it" happened! You played your progeny. You played your best. You didn't make any "mistakes" that you could see. Still, at the end of the game, the gleeful child across the table didn't seem so angelic when they announced "checkmate!" and went screaming through the house to find your spouse. "M-O-M, I beat him...come look," they yelled. And then, as your dismayed spouse followed them back into the room, this sweet, loving, angelic child laid bare the soft underbelly of your ego as they described how they finished you off!

Flash forward in time three months...you've managed to regain a little dignity over the last month or two by winning at least some of your games against your offspring. This, now, not-so-angelic child who takes such great pleasure in trouncing you, presents you with a piece of paper announcing something called a chess tournament. If you're truly a "new" chess parent, you don't know that such a thing exists. But, since they can beat you so regularly, perhaps your child has a real talent for this game. Dare you think it?...perhaps, they're the next Bobby Fischer. (Admit it, the thought crossed your mind!) OK, the damage is done. You're going to a chess tournament.

When you arrive at the tournament site on the appointed day, there are people everywhere. Surely this must be the entire chess-playing population of the world! Bewildered parents stand in line to complete registration while their children fidget or wander or run around. Some other kids have set-up a chess board in the corner and are merrily pushing pieces around the board, punctuated by slapping a

two-faced clock. You know now, beyond a doubt, that your child will not win every game today. It's possible that they may not win one game. But, your offspring doesn't seem to notice or care. They're watching the game in the corner and asking if they can play the winner.

Registration accomplished! Your child is now an official member of seemingly every chess organization available. The person at registration pointed you towards something called a "skittles" room. Up until now, in your view of the world, Skittles was a kind of small round fruity tasting candy that looked like an M&M. Now there's an entire room devoted to it???

Well, no, when you locate the room it's a very ordinary sort of room, with lots of other parents, some talking, some reading, others playing chess with their kids. Some just look confused...been there, etc. You settle tentatively at a table for a long day of...what? What is going to happen? Shortly before the tournament is scheduled to begin, an adult (who seems to be in charge) begins to make announcements. They talk about round times, where "pairings" will be posted, where "results" will be posted, time controls, and lots and lots of rules that are "unique to this tournament." You're quite sure that your child doesn't know ANY of this, but they're nodding their head dutifully as though they understand, so you go along with it.

And then, the final announcement..."The pairings are up!" The room erupts in whooping, running mass of bobbing heads, flailing arms and running feet and evacuates as quickly as if someone had said Michael Jordan was in the lobby. Your child, of course, disappeared with the rest of the lemmings. By following the sounds of the voices (which are now reverberating throughout the facility) you finally locate a sheet of paper on the wall that everyone is crowding around. Your child is at the very front of the crowd, pressed against the wall. They have located their name on the sheet, but have no idea what to do now. Of course, neither do you, but feigning skill you quickly double-check the sheet, see something called a "board number" and, taking them by the hand, lead them in the direction that everyone else is heading.

Once inside the tournament room, chaos reigns supreme! There are kids everywhere! There are chess boards everywhere! There are adults everywhere! You locate someone that looks like they know what they're doing and ask them where your sweet, loving, once-more angelic child is supposed to be. What board number? Oh,

that number from the piece of paper on the wall? You tell them and they instantly direct you to the correct board. What color? How do you know? By luck the other player shows up and they know their color...which leaves only one, by default. You make a mental note to know the correct color before the next match. Chaos is quickly subsiding into a room quieter than a church on Monday morning.

You wish your child "good luck...I love you...play well" and are unceremoniously herded from the room with the other chess parents. As a first-time chess parent, you must inevitably return to the "pairing sheet" and begin studying it. There must be more information to be gleaned from this! You notice that each row on the sheet has a number to the far left, which is the board number. Then, in the first column are listed the names of all the players playing with White. Next to each name is a number...someone tells you that's the "seeding" of the players. Your child has a '28' next to their name. There are only 32 names on the piece of paper. There's a '12' next to your child's opponent. Uh, oh, that can't be too good! The second column of names list the players playing with Black. As you're studying the sheet, kids are already beginning to emerge from the tournament room. It's been 3 minutes since the tournament began.

They emerge in pairs. Some are elated, some are dejected, and sometimes you can't tell who won and lost. They proceed to the pairing sheet where they're writing something. The winner is putting a '1' beside their name and the loser is putting a '0' beside theirs. Other first-time chess parents are, like you, standing near the pairing sheet. As their kids come out, you watch their reactions...from joy to despair to "let's go to the playground!" Then the inevitable happens...your child comes out of the tournament room, and you can't tell from the look on their face what happened. Well???

"You won???? GREAT!!!!" You feel elated.

"You lost???? It's OK!" You feel despondent.

It's been 10 minutes since the tournament began and you're either very high

or very low, even if your progeny doesn't seem to care.

The pairings for Round Two have been posted. This time, your child doesn't wait for you. They've gotten the board number and are "off" before you ever reach the pairing sheet. Being a concerned parent, you double-check the board number, remember to get the color this time, and wander into the tournament room again. When you reach the room, your budding chess genius is already seated

(continued on page 33)

The Evans - Grob Attack by Bob Rieves

Here's an interesting game I saw a few weeks ago. It has some errors, but that's what makes it so instructive.

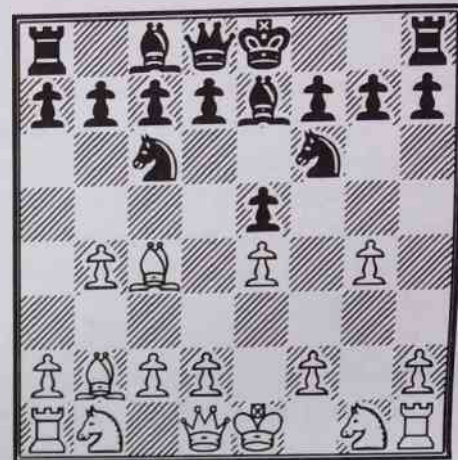
After each diagram there will be a question for you to answer to test your chess skill. You may wish to expose the text a line at a time so you won't see the answers prematurely. Let's start!

1. e4 e5 2. Bc4 Nf6 3. b4? Be7 4. Bb2 Nc6 5. g4?

Now, I will explain why I called this game the Evans-Grob attack. The Evans Gambit is a real gambit opening with the moves 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. b4 Bxb4 5. c3 Ba5 6. d4. White has sacrificed a pawn but he has compensation for it in development and central control. I learned this over-the-board from Ken Sloan. He thinks this opening is an excellent one for Scholastic players.

The move 1. g4 is seen in an opening called the Grob. The name is derived from the Swiss player Henry Grob (1904 - 74) who analyzed it in a book he wrote in 1942. More recently it has been adopted by IM Michael Basman, and locally by Scholastic chess promoter Dale Robbins. The Grob is fun to play but perhaps not very sound. Basman has written an excellent book called *Chess Openings*. He discusses **material chess** (he values the Bishop at 3 1/2 points and the Knight at 3 1/4 points), **tactical chess** and **positional chess**. Basman also shows many **school tournament** games. I recommend this book as a must for every player regardless of strength.

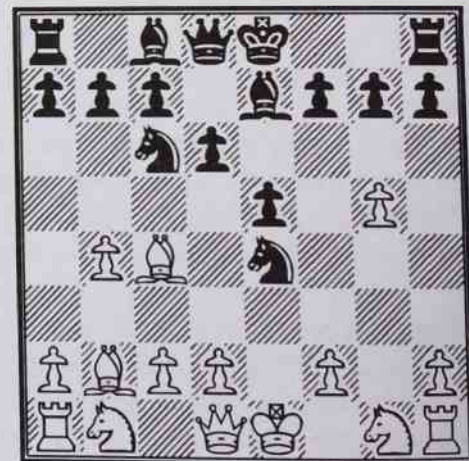
Now back to the game. Here's your first question. Can Black win a pawn here?



Yes, both b4 and e4 are hanging. Black does not see this or thinks there is a trap and plays

5. ... d6 6. g5 Nxe4

Can White prevent Black from ever castling?

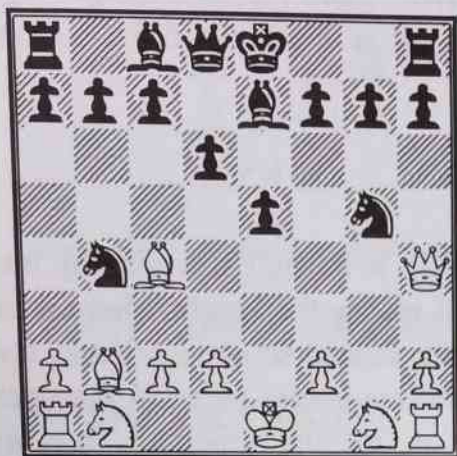


Yes, by playing 7. Bxf7+, White sacrifices his Bishop but regains it after 7. ... Kxf7 8. Qf3+ Nf6 9. gxf and White has won back his piece, avoided the loss of a second pawn, and forced Black to move his king so that he will never be able to castle.

But White does not see this and plays

7. Qf3 Nxc2 8. Qh5 Nxb4 9. Qh4?

White threatens 10. Bxf7+ Nxf7 11. Qxb4 but Black has a move before White can do this. What is Black's best move?



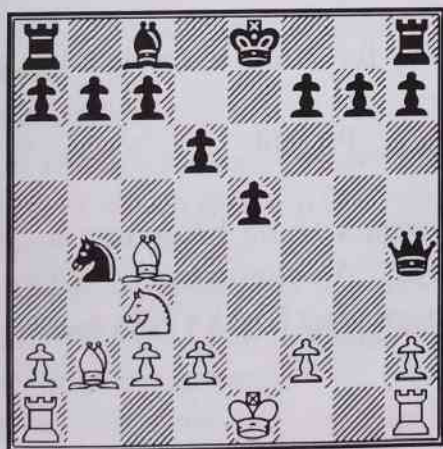
Black found the right move and played

9. ... Nf3+! 10. Nxf3 Bxh4 11. Nxh4 Qxh4

and White's queen is gone. Now White played

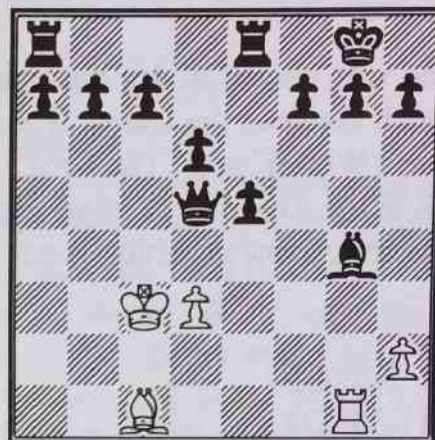
12. Nc3?

He has developed his knight but what has he failed to see?



12. ... Nxc2 + 13. Ke2 Qxc4+ 14. d3 Qh4 15. Kd2? Nxa1 16. Rxa1 Qxf2+ 17. Ne2 Bg4 18. Ba3? Qxe2+ 19. Kc3 O - O 20. Rh1 Qxa2 21. Bc1 Qd5 22. Rg1?

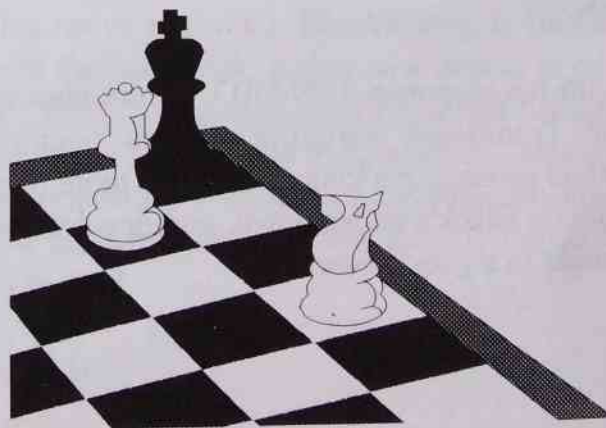
Black has a double attacking move here. Do you see it?



22. ... Qd4+ 23. Kd2 Qxg1

Black wins the rook on g1 and went on to win the game in a few more moves.

How many questions did you answer correctly? 5 is excellent, 4 is very good, 3 is good. If you missed a question, would you have answered it correctly if you had thought for another few minutes? Next time you play, remember to concentrate and take enough time!!!



A Caro-Kann Miniature by Warner Chandler

White: Andrew H. Chandler (720)

Black: Erik Varga (UNR)

Alabama Junior Team Tournament, Hoover, Ala. 09/20/97, Reserve Section, G/30.

This game was played at 4th board in a 2nd round match between the teams "The King & Her Court" (White) and "The King's Sorcerers", both in the Reserve (12 years and under) Section of the Alabama Junior Team Tournament.

1. P-K4 P-QB3

2. P-Q4 P-Q4

3. N-QB3 ...

Black chooses the Caro-Kann Defense to P-K4. In this opening Black strives for defense of the strong-point at Q4 and development of the Queen's Bishop. Black wishes to gain a share of the center via pawn support for the Q pawn. If White plays P x P, Black will recapture ...P x P and try to make use of the half open QB file. If White avoids P x P, Black can play ...P x P himself and strive for ...P-QB4 later on, attacking White's center from the side.

With his response 3. N-QB3, White chooses the Traditional variation of this opening. White protects his king pawn, puts more pressure on Black's queen pawn, and develops his knight to a good square.

3. ... N-KR3 ?

3. ... P x P would be a reasonable response for Black at this point. N - KR3 places the knight too far away from the action to be any direct help. It will take another move to put him in action.

4. N-B3 N-N5

4. N-B3 is a normal developing move for White. It places the knight where it can help control the central squares. Black, however, has moved his knight twice in the opening, a violation of opening principles. It is not clear what he is after, so White will have to keep an eye on this knight. Let's see if White will try to put together an attack on this knight that will either win it, or force Black to waste some more moves to keep it safe.

5. B-KB4 P-KR3

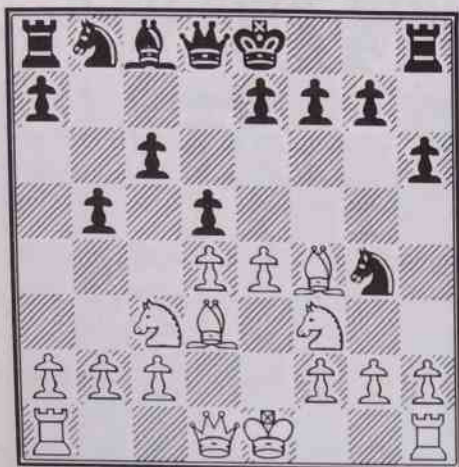
Perhaps Black's move is in preparation for P-KN4, driving White's bishop from its nice post.

6. B-Q3 ...

Makes way for White to castle kingside.

6. ... P-QN4

Black appears to be beginning a queenside pawn thrust. An alternative would be P-KN4, as discussed after Black's fifth move.



Position after 6. ... P-QN4

Opening Principles

I think this would be a good time to review the principles of a sound opening. In the first few moves of a game, you want to:

- * control the center
- * develop your minor pieces
- * protect your king by castling

Let's examine how the two sides are faring with this task. White has done well to this point.

1. He has two central pawns to Black's one
2. All his minor pieces (bishops and knights) are developed to squares where they bear on the center.
3. White is ready to castle king-side; and one move of his queen would allow the long castle to queen-side.

On the other hand,

1. Four of Black's six moves have been pawn moves, two of which were on the "wings" (not in the center).
2. Black has developed only one minor piece, and used two moves to do it. He is weak in the development of his forces.
3. There is little protection for Black's king. He needs to castle.

Because White has followed these opening principles better than Black, he has gained some time to see if he can put together a plan to take advantage of Black's weaknesses. White has much of his army already well-posted to be quickly available in case it is needed for the attack that will surely follow.

7. P-K5 P-B3 ?

A move that weakens Black's king considerably. There could follow 8. B-N6ch K-Q2, 9. B-B5ch P-K3, 10. BxN P-KB4, 11. B-R5 B-N5, which allows White to gain Black's stranded knight. Better might be 7. ... P-N4, perhaps leading to 8. B-Q2 P-N5 9. N-K2 P-QB4, 10. PxP N-QB3, which only loses a pawn.

8. B-N6ch ...

The central placement of White's king bishop (the one on the white squares) allows him to take advantage of Black's mistake here. This move checks Black's king and removes the possibility of castling.

8. K-Q2

This move is forced. Black's king is flushed from the back rank, and is now unable to castle. Black's king-side is so weak that his king would not be very safe there anyway. Missing the opportunity to form a defense, he must now sit helplessly as White quickly moves in for the kill.

9. B-B7 ...

This move posts this bishop on a strong square - it would take several moves to drive it off or trap it in some way, and it appears to have a ready made escape route. Perhaps it will be able to help with further attacks from this position of strength. It could lead to 9. ... P-K3, 10. B-R5 PxP, 11. PxP P-N5, 12. N-K2 P-N4, 13. BxN PxB, 14. NxP with White gaining a pawn in material. White could also have played 9. B-B5ch, leading to P-K3, 10. BxN P-KB4, 11. B-R5 B-N5, which wins a knight. It appears that White is after a bigger prize than the knight.

9. ... P-K3 !

Prevents 10. P - K6 mate! This move also opens up an escape square for the king in case White can push forward the King pawn at a later point.

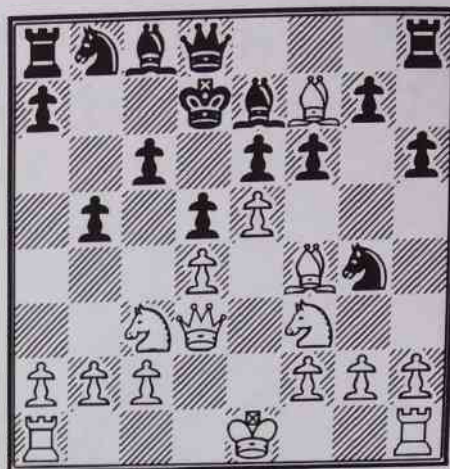
10. Q-Q3 ...

What is White after? He could have won the knight on N5 for a pawn with the move 10. B-R5. (If you don't see this, ask yourself where the Black knight can go if it is attacked by White's bishop.)

10. B-K2 ?

Black's previous move 9. ... P-K3 opened up a potential escape square for his king. This move plugs it back up. Can you figure out what White will do now?

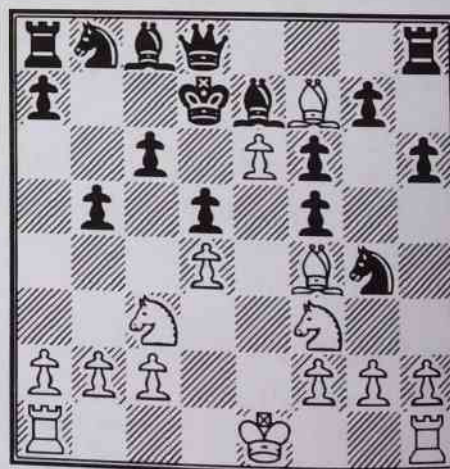
(next column: Position after 10. ... B-K2)



11. Q-B5!! PxQ?

White remembers the tactic, "remove the defender." This is a delicious Queen sacrifice, and is entirely too tempting for Black. Better for him would have been 11. ... P-N4 or 11. ... K-B2, after which White could play 12. QxN, winning the stranded knight.. Taking the queen gives White a forced mate opportunity.

12. P-K6 mate 1-0



This was a short jewel of a game by a second grade scholastic player. (Mr. Chandler gave his son's 11th move only one '!', but I thought it deserved at least two - R.P.)

Alabama Junior Team Championship

The fourth annual Alabama Junior Team tournament was held on Saturday, 20 September 1997, at Trace Crossings Elementary School in Hoover. The event was organized by Dr. Vasha Rosenblum, and TD Kenneth Sloan, Kyle Therrell, Dale Robbins, Phil King, and Tom Young assisted.

Sixteen teams and sixty-four players competed for prizes in two categories: Open (18 and under) and Reserve (12 and under). Individual plaques were awarded to each player on the top two teams in each category.

This event is unique in Alabama chess in that there are no restrictions on the composition of teams.

Once again, the *Mobile Marauders* (Thomas Elmes, Shafer Gaston, William Berry, and Chad Wilbanks) won the Open division. Second place went to the *Mountain Brook Ghoti* (Jacob Weiss, Taylor Curtis, David Sloan, and Ari Friedman). The Marauders and Ghoti met in round 3; the margin was 2.5-1.5.

The Reserve group saw a virtual dead heat between the *King and Her Court* (Kendra King, Nathanael Chandler, Andrew Rozsa, and Andrew Chandler), and *Advent 4* (Lee Martin, Sturgeon Christie, Forrest Pearce, and Josh Crichton). These teams started just below the middle of the pack, and both teams had to deal with monster first AND last round pairings. In round one, they lost to the number one and two teams based on pre-event ratings (the Marauders and the John Carroll Knights); in the last round, they faced the number one and two teams in the final standings (the Marauders and the Ghoti). On their top boards, Lee Martin and Kendra King each picked up a cool 52 rating points! At the end, they were tied at 3-2 and separated by the tiniest margin - one quarter of a tiebreak point. Advent 4 had 27; the King and Her Court had 26.75.

Sharing individual honors with perfect 5-0 scores were newcomer (just arrived from MN) Xavier Martine on board 1, David Sloan on board 3, and Chad Wilbanks on board 4. Shafer Gason and Taylor Curtis led all board 2 players with 4.5 (they drew in the Marauder-Ghoti match). N.B. - Individual ratings on the next page are from the USCF WWW weekly updates. Teams ratings below (and ordering of players on teams) were taken from the August Supplement. Post-event ratings are unofficial.

Alabama Junior Team - 20 September 1997 - Teams										
#	Team	Prev	Perf	Post	R 1	R 2	R 3	R 4	R 5	Score
1	Mobile Marauders	1337	1404	1364	W05	W07	W02	W04	W06	5.0
2	Mountain Brook Ghoti	1178	1200	1189	W10	W08	L01	W03	W05	4.0
3	Vestavia Kings	1044	1118	1061	W14	W09	D04	L02	W11	3.5
4	John Carroll Knights	1207	1099	1189	W06	W11	D03	L01	D07	3.0
5	King & Her Court	0819	1061	0860	L01	W13	W07	W08	L02	3.0
6	Advent 4	0781	1067	0827	L04	W12	W11	W09	L01	3.0
7	Knightmares	1036	0937	1020	W12	L01	L05	W14	D04	2.5
8	Advent 1	0849	0790	0841	W15	L02	W10	L05	D09	2.5
9	Black Warriors	0839	0751	0824	W16	L03	W14	L06	D08	2.5
10	SSC B	0753	0723	0744	L02	W16	L08	D13	W14	2.5
11	SSC F	0896	0759	0870	W13	L04	L06	W12	L03	2.0
12	Advent 2	0655	0617	0646	L07	L06	W16	L11	W15	2.0
13	King's Sorcerers	0506	0568	0513	L11	L05	D15	D10	W16	2.0
14	Rocking Rooks	0668	0566	0644	L03	W15	L09	L07	L10	1.0
15	Sneaky 4	0359	0378	0356	L08	L14	D13	D16	L12	1.0
16	Advent 3	0412	0302	0384	L09	L10	L12	D15	L13	0.5

Back 2 School Blues Scholastic by Dale Robbins

On August 6, twenty-eight eager and excited youngsters got an early start on the scholastic chess season by participating in the 5th annual "Back 2 School Blues Scholastic" held at Springville Road Library in Birmingham. The vast majority of participants were in the K-6 section. The Open and K-3 sections were rolled in with K-6 for pairing purposes, but trophies were awarded by section. Assisting me with the tournament director duties was Vasha Rosenblum.. Many thanks Vasha! Great job!

First time participants joining USCF at this event were awarded FREE membership in ACF. Each entrant received participation ribbons and FREE french fry certificates from Rally's Hamburgers. Consolation chess books were awarded to Shikar Vohra, Elizabeth Hall, Nathanael Chandler, and Patrick Gilbert. Best "First-Timer" trophies were presented to Tim Tanju, Justin Luck, and Kevin Pelton. Section trophies were distributed as follows:

K - 3

1st, Greg Espenan
2nd, Andrew Chandler
3rd, Kara Marie Young

K - 6

1st, Kendra King
2nd, Brennan Young
3rd, Andrew Rozsa

K - 12

1st, Jordan Jones
2nd, Joshua Cowart
3rd, Warren Robbins

Back 2 School Scholastic - Open (K - 12) August 26, 1997 - Birmingham

#	Gr	Name	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
1	12	Jordan Jones	W18	W16	W8	W3	W5	5.0
2	12	Shikar Vohra	W15	W9	L5	W17	W10	4.0
3	12	Joshua Cowart	W12	W17	W4	L1	W11	4.0
4	K6	Kendra King	W28	W7	L3	W21	W6	4.0
5	12	Warren Robbins	W24	W13	W2	W14	L1	4.0
6	12	Al Tanju	L11	W22	W18	W9	L4	3.0
7	12	Ethan Balch	W19	L4	L14	W13	W17	3.0
8	K6	Brennan Young	W21	W10	L1	L11	W14	3.0
9	K3	Greg Espenan	W27	L2	W19	L6	W20	3.0
10	K6	Nath. Chandler	W25	L8	W20	W16	L2	3.0
11	K6	Andrew Rozsa	W6	D14	D13	W8	L3	3.0
12	K6	Patrick Gilbert	L3	W23	L17	W19	W16	3.0
13	K6	Lewis Lehe	W20	L5	D11	L7	W21	2.5
14	12	Vaibhav Vohra	W22	D11	W7	L5	L8	2.5
15	K6	Bryan Jordan	L2	W27	L16	D23	W24	2.5
16	K6	Nathan Hall	W26	L1	W15	L10	L12	2.0
17	K6	Mason Williams	W23	L3	W12	L2	L7	2.0
18	K6	Jack Gerrity	L1	W26	L6	L20	W23	2.0
19	K3	Andrew Chandler	L7	W28	L9	L12	W26	2.0
20	K6	Hunter Stevens	L13	W24	L10	W18	L9	2.0
21	K6	Christina Charles	L8	W25	W22	L4	L13	2.0
22	12	Benjamin Sibley	L14	L6	L21	W25	W27	2.0
23	K6	Tim Tanju	L17	L12	W26	D15	L18	1.5
24	K3	KaraMarieYoung	L5	L20	W28	D27	L15	1.5
25	K6	Justin Luck	L10	L21	D27	L22	W28	1.5
26	K3	Philip Ducharme	L16	L18	L23	W28	L19	1.0
27	K6	Kevin Pelton	L9	L15	D25	D24	L22	1.0
28	K3	Elizabeth W. Hall	L4	L19	L24	L26	L25	0.0

Caesar Lawrence's Crosstables

Montgomery July G/60 Open - July 12, 1997 - Montgomery, AL

Open Players	Pre	Post	1	2	3	4	Total
1. Jere Roland	2000	2032	W6	W5	W2	D3	3.5
2. Ray Downs	2012	2012	W8	W7	L1	W6	3.0
3. Robert Pruitt	2033	2022	D4	W8	D7	D1	2.5
4. Caesar Lawrence	1844	1830	D3	L6	W9	W10	2.5
5. Thomas Lawry	1901	1880	W10	L1	L6	W7	2.0
6. James Richardson	1544	1594	L1	W4	W5	L2	2.0
7. Tim Bond	1951	1925	W9	L2	D3	L5	1.5
8. Steve Nowlin	1500	1489	L2	L3	L10	W9	1.0
9. Lamar Causey	1452	1444	L7	W10	L4	L8	1.0
10. Riley Lane	1345	1352	L5	L9	W8	L4	1.0

GAO 4 Open Section - August 2-3, 1997 - Montgomery, AL

Players	Pre	Post	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1. Andy Reeder	2048	2071	W11	W12	W3	W4	L2	4.0
2. Richard Frye	2117	2108	L4	D7	W11	W6	W1	3.5
3. Jere Roland	2032	2020	W6	W9	L1	W10	D4	3.5
4. Thomas Campbell	1839	1895	W2	W10	W8	L1	D3	3.5
5. Robert Pruitt	2022	2004	L12	D11	H	W7	W10	3.0
6. Ross Smith	1714	1752	L3	B	W12	L2	W8	3.0
7. Tim Bond	1931	1912	L9	D2	B	L5	W11	2.5
8. Ray Downs	2012	1969	H	H	L4	W12	L6	2.0
9. Constantine Ananiadis	1668	1684	W7	L3	L10	L11	W12	2.0
10. James Bowen	1605	1611	B	L4	W9	L3	L5	2.0
11. Caesar Lawrence	1830	1823	L1	D5	L2	W9	L7	1.5
12. Raymond Quillian	1801	1771	W5	L1	L6	L8	L9	1.0

GAO 4 Reserve Section - August 2-3, 1997 - Montgomery, AL

Players	Pre	Post	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1. James Richardson	1628	1678	W10	W5	W2	W3	W6	5.0
2. John O'Connor	1589	1613	W4	W3	L1	W7	W8	4.0
3. Lamar Causey	1501	1508	W9	L2	W8	L1	W7	3.0
4. Mark Grunberg	1375	1389	L2	D7	W9	D5	B	3.0
5. Scott Miller	1567	1550	W8	L1	D7	D4	H	2.5
6. Bill Reeves	UNR	1367	L7	D8	W10	X	L1	2.5
7. Troy Lambert	15.02	1481	W6	D4	D5	L2	L3	2.0
8. Riley Lane	1352	1328	L5	D6	L3	B	L2	1.5
9. Kelly Atkins	1176	1195	L3	W10	L4	F	U	1.0
10. Robert Rieves	1386	1339	L1	L9	L6	U	U	.0

Montgomery Scholastic - May 14, 1997 - Forest Ave. Elem. - Montgomery, AL

Elementary	Pre	Post	1	2	3	4	5	Total
	897	1038	W23	W3	W7	W10	W4	5.0
1. Daniel DeVirgilio	1052	1054	W12	L10	W17	W5	W9	4.0
2. Upton Reynolds	863	933	W18	L1	W24	W7	W10	4.0
3. Sean Wilson	1057	1058	W17	W8	D5	W6	L1	3.5
4. Kaitlin Kirk	946	973	W26	W9	D4	L2	W11	3.5
5. Kendra King	UN	959	D21	W15	W16	L4	W14	3.5
6. Tyler Stutheit	904	891	W20	W11	L1	L3	W17	3.0
7. Paul Hutchinson	892	891	W19	L4	W12	L9	W20	3.0
8. Ryan Lynn	872	877	W22	L5	W18	W8	L2	3.0
9. Philip Perrine	857	868	W25	W2	W14	L1	L3	3.0
10. Michael Rice	605	719	W13	L7	W19	W16	L5	3.0
11. Brett Goodson	570	733	L2	W25	L8	W24	W18	3.0
12. Corey Dunkerson	UNR	739	L11	W20	D21	L14	W24	2.5
13. Andrew Wojszynski	UNR	789	D16	W24	L10	W13	L6	2.5
14. Zachary Tribble	950	796	L24	L6	D22	W26	D16	2.0
15. Jacob Dunkerson	501	615	D14	W21	L6	L11	D15	2.0
16. Kameron Howell	344	491	L4	W22	L2	W19	L7	2.0
17. Mary Givens	UNR	693	L3	W26	L9	W22	L12	2.0
18. John Richards	UNR	622	L8	W23	L11	L17	W26	2.0
19. Elizabeth Ready	UNR	724	L7	L13	W23	W21	L8	2.0
20. Ryan Glanzer	675	667	D6	L16	D13	L20	D23	1.5
21. Erin Contois	UNR	546	L9	L17	D15	L18	W25	1.5
22. Gretchen Grissett	UNR	600	L1	L19	L20	W25	D21	1.5
23. Austin Elliott	UNR	595	W15	L14	L3	L12	L13	1.0
24. Victor Crum	UNR	415	L10	L12	D26	L23	L22	.5
25. Eric Hoyt	UNR	437	L5	L18	D15	L15	L19	.5
26. Rachel Free								

Primary	Pre	Post	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1. Mason Williams	910	989	W6	B	W2	W3	W4	5.0
2. Robert Conway	UNR	998	W5	W3	L1	D4	W6	3.5
3. Phillip Causey	647	667	B	L2	W4	L1	W9	3.0
4. Daniel Reynolds	362	580	W7	W9	LE	D2	L1	2.5
5. Alexander O'Neal	UNR	814	L2	L6	W9	W7	D8	2.5
6. Joseph Metzger	UNR	894	L1	W5	D7	W8	L2	2.5
7. Jordan Garrett	UNR	738	L4	W8	D6	L5	B	2.5
8. Kehly Kirk	UNR	594	D9	L7	B	L6	D5	2.0
9. Keisha Smith	UNR	456	D8	L5	L5	B	L3	1.5

High School	Pre	Post	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1 James Richardson	1525	1541	W11	W4	W2	W6	W3	5.0
2 Daniel Vignes	1256	1296	W10	W5	L1	W11	W6	4.0
3 Ray Coleman	1289	1283	W9	L6	W5	W4	L1	3.0
4. Jason Yang	1033	1096	B	L1	W9	L3	W8	3.0
5. Aaron Barnes	UNR	1342	W8	W3	W11	L1	L2	3.0
6. Philip Perrine	889	872	L5	D10	B	L8	W11	2.5
7. Donny Yoo	1222	1124	L6	L11	W10	W7	L4	2.0
9. Jeremiah Gafford	788	778	L3	B	L4	W10	L5	2.0
10. Thomas Marion	UNR	712	L2	D7	L8	L9	B	1.5
11. Jessica Roberson	1081	1068	L1	W8	L6	L2	L7	1.0

Alabama G/29 Championship - June 14, 1997 - Montgomery, AL

Open	Pre	Post	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1. Andrew Whatley	1939	1981	W12	W11	W4	W2	W7	5.0
2. Ray Downs	1969	1972	W8	W10	X	L1	W4	4.0
3. Constantine Ananiadis	1549	1575	L4	W12	D8	W6	D9	3.0
4. Robert Pruitt	1964	1946	W3	W6	L1	D7	L2	2.5
5. Rodes Peele	1782	1760	D9	L7	W10	L8	W12	2.5
6. Louis De Fiore	1780	1769	W13	L4	H	L3	W8	2.5
7. Caesar Lawrence	1770	1778	L11	W5	W13	D4	L1	2.5
8. Frank Greiner	1689	1701	L2	W9	D3	W5	L6	2.5
9. James Richardson	1541	1544	D5	L8	D12	W13	D3	2.5
10. Kelly Atkins	1176	1281	B	L2	L5	D12	W13	2.5
11. Otis Daniel	2152	2143	W7	L1	F	U	U	1.0
12. Bose Agnew	1546	1525	L1	L3	D9	D10	L5	1.0
13. Robert Rieves	1283	1268	L6	B	L7	L9	L10	1.0

(continued from page 23)

across from their opponent and they're having a lively discussion about the latest video game. So much for being helpful. "Good luck...I love you...play well" and you're herded out the door again. A little while later, your lovely, sweet, ever-so-angelic offspring walks slowly from the room. They lost! "Oh, well," you tell them, "it's not the end of the world! Shake it off! Forget about it! How about a snack?"

Round Three comes and now you barely get into the room before the Tournament Director is herding you out. A new piece of paper has been posted outside the tournament room called a "crosstable." You locate your child near the bottom of the sheet, with the number '28' next to their name. This sheet is confusing, indeed! About the only facts that you can glean from it are that your child is "NEW" and "Unrated" whatever that means. Some other parents have gathered around the sheet and are likewise studying it. While you're looking at this new sheet, your child parades from the tournament room to announce that they have won their 3rd game. And, of course they want an explanation of this paper that you're studying. You search out a face that seems to know what's going on and ask,

"What does this mean?" The kind soul that you asked proceeds to tell you that this shows that your child played Black, against player 12 and won that game giving them 1 point. Then they played White against player 8 and lost (they still have only 1 point). Finally, they played Black against player 17. After Round 2, they have a total of 1 point, but of course, that doesn't include the game they just won, which will give them 2 points after Round 3.

This person makes several other observations about who your child might be playing in the next round, but you're brain is going into overload. Your eyes glaze over and you turn them off. When you look down, your sweet, cherubic child is still listening intently. When the kind person finally finishes talking, the cherub looks up, smiles and utters that phrase that all new chess parents dread: "I always beat my Dad whenever we play!" And you smile and say aloud, "W-e-l-l, not EVERY time" but in your heart, you wish it were so.

Now, you know, beyond a doubt, that there will be other days and other tournaments because your wonderful, angelic, marvelously smart offspring has found their "niche." And, you've officially become one of the ranks of the chess parents of the world. Welcome!

B'ham Chess Club Crosstables from ACF Webpage

First Sunday Quads 3 August 1997

		Quad 1		Score 1 2 3 4	
Player		Prev	Perf Post		
1	Kenneth Sloan	1840	1829 1848	3.0	* 1 1 1
2	Jerone Johnson	1533	1415 1482	1.0	0 * 1 0
3	W Higginbotham	1490	1413 1478	1.0	0 0 * 1
4	Robert M Rieves	1315	1471 1327	1.0	0 1 0 *

		Quad 2		Score 1 2 3 4	
Player		Prev	Perf Post		
1	Donald E Yessick	1158	1511 1205	3.0	* 1 1 1
2	Ken Starkey	1164	1284 1178	2.0	0 * 1 1
3	Roy Martin	1189	1111 1181	1.0	0 0 * 1
4	Philip Norton	1058	0786 1026	0.0	0 0 0 *

		Quad 3		Score 1 2 3 4	
Player		Prev	Perf Post		
1	Larry Williams	1046	1142 1087	2.0	* 1 0 1
2	Joshua A Cowart	1016	1165 1034	2.0	0 * 1 1
3	Brennan G Young	1011	0901 0998	1.0	1 0 * 0
4	Vaibhav Vohra	0999	0905 0988	1.0	0 0 1 *

		Hex		Score 1 2 3 4 5	
Player		Prev	Perf Post		
1	Julie O Buse	0718	1168 0797	3.0	* 1 - - 1 1
2	Thomas H Young	0981	0950 0975	2.0	0 * 1 1 - -
3	Nath'l Chandler	0802	0802 0802	1.5	- 0 * 1 - =
4	Israel Solomon	0891	0711 0852	1.0	- 0 0 * 1 -
5	Andrew Chandler	0750	0608 0733	1.0	0 - - 0 * 1
6	Robert W Jones	0574	0517 0567	0.5	0 - - - 0 *

Tuesday Quick Quads 16 September 1997

		Quad 1		Score 1 2 3 4	
Player		Prev	Perf Post		
1	Jack P Gwin	1823	1669 1810	2.0	* 1 1 0
2	Michael J DeVivo	1682	1716 1688	2.0	0 * 1 1
3	Wm D Morrison	1622	1470 1605	1.0	0 0 * 1
4	John N Morcos	1304	1576 1326	1.0	1 0 0 *

		Hex		Score 1 2 3 4 5 6	
Player		Prev	Perf Post		
1	Xavier Martine	1464	1675 1488	3.0	* - 1 1 1 -
2	Robert M Rieves	1268	1422 1288	2.5	- * = 1 - 1
3	Floyd Watkins	1156	1347 1189	1.5	0 = * - 1 -
4	Richard Wm Ellis	1374	1078 1343	1.0	0 0 - * - 1
5	Jonathan Wright	1310	1060 1263	1.0	0 - 0 - * 1
6	John Redmond	UNR	0902 0902	0.0	- 0 - 0 0 *

First Sunday Quads 7 September 1997

		Quad 1		Score 1 2 3 4	
Player		Prev	Perf Post		
1	Robert F Pruitt	2033	1994 2036	2.5	* = 1 1
2	Ray Downs	2012	2001 2017	2.5	= * 1 1
3	Xavier Martine	1599	1739 1608	1.0	0 0 * 1
4	Scott Alan Miller	1570	1481 1550	0.0	0 0 0 *

		Quad 2		Score 1 2 3 4	
Player		Prev	Perf Post		
1	Jordan Jones	1199	1652 1254	3.0	* 1 1 1
2	Robert M Rieves	1315	1081 1285	1.0	0 * 0 1
3	David Sloan	253	1101 1234	1.0	0 1 * 0
4	Roy Martin	1189	1123 1181	1.0	0 0 1 *

		Quad 3		Score 1 2 3 4	
Player		Prev	Perf Post		
1	Brennan G Young	1011	1127 1024	2.0	* 1 1 0
2	Joshua A Cowart	1016	0992 1012	1.5	0 * = 1
3	Kendra King	0946	1015 0955	1.5	0 = * 1
4	Warner Chandler	1063	0858 1019	1.0	1 0 0 *

		Quad 3		Score 1 2 3 4	
Player		Prev	Perf Post		
1	Thomas H Young	0981	1116 0996	2.5	* 1 = 1
2	Nath'l Chandler	0802	1041 0831	2.0	0 * 1 1
3	Mason Williams	0962	0863 0939	1.5	= 0 * 1
4	Brian Turner	0805	0507 0770	0.0	0 0 0 *

		Hex		Score 1 2 3 4 5 6	
Player		Prev	Perf Post		
1	Harold Moore	0770	0938 0803	3.0	* - 1 - 1 1
2	Andrew Chandler	0750	0891 0769	3.0	- * - 1 1 1
3	Jason Turner	0598	0788 0620	2.0	0 - * 1 1 1
4	Zach Schultz	0751	0450 0638	1.0	- 0 0 * - 1
5	Ronley E Ashley	0596	0306 0523	0.0	0 0 0 - * -
6	Beverly S Ashley	0301	0357 0312	0.0	0 0 - 0 - *

Iron Tornado II 27 September 1997

		Quad 1		Score 1 2 3 4	
Player		Prev	Perf Post		
1	Tim Bond	1931	2135 1972	W07	D02 W09 W04 3.5
2	Robert Pruitt	2004	1871 1998	W11	D01 D05 W06 3.0
3	V.Higginbotham	1520	1832 1569	W12	W13 L04 W05 3.0
4	Richard W Frye	2108	1801 2080	W06	D05 W03 L01 2.5
5	Jeffrey S Wien	1904	1770 1890	W10	D04 D02 L03 2.0
6	James Koerner	1448	1674 1465	L04	W08 W11 L02 2.0
7	Robert Rieves	1348	1483 1360	L01	W12 D13 H 2.0
8	Roger Kernodle	1185	1486 1228	D13	L06 W10 D11 1.5
9	Kenneth Sloan	1880	1590 1867	W14	H L01 F 1.5
10	David Sloan	1448	1313 1427	L05	H L08 W14 1.5
11	Richard Ellis	1400	1371 1385	L02	W14 L06 D08 1.5
12	Ari Friedman	0871	1341 0912	L03	L07 D14 W13 1.0
13	Jim Griffin	1646	1031 1567	D08	L03 D07 L12 0.5
14	J. Wright	1248	1100 1217	L09	L11 D12 L10

When: The First Sunday of (almost) every month (please check the ACF Calendar)

Where: Hill University Center on the UAB campus (corner of University Ave and 14th Street South)

What: Low-cost USCF rated Quads, G/45. **Entry fee: \$2.00.**
Some sections may be Hex, or G/30

Times: **Registration, 1:00-1:30; Rounds, 1:45, 3:15, 4:45**

Prizes: Clear winner in each section receives free entry to the next event.

All ages and all playing levels welcome. USCF Membership Required (available on site). This is a popular low-stress format. Come and enjoy the chess! No big \$\$, no big trophies - just chess. Please bring sets, boards and clocks. Round times are nominal - we'll play each round ASAP (RR format means no delay for pairings). Questions? - contact Kenneth Sloan

Birmingham City Championship by Kyle Therrell

Kyle Therrell sent in the following news story back in July, but through an oversight on my part it didn't appear in the previous issue of *Antics*. A couple of weeks after the Qualifying Tournament, Kyle successfully defended his City Championship title - see crosstable appended below. - R.P.

The Birmingham Qualifying Tournament, the first in a series of two tournaments held to determine the 1997 Birmingham Champion, took place on July 12 at UAB. The tournament was open to residents of Jefferson and adjoining counties.

The three Finalist trophies were taken by Andy Reeder, Kirk Petty and Kenneth Sloan, each with 3 1/2 points in the 4 - round event. These players, along with defending champion Kyle Therrell, will contest a round-robin on July 26 to determine the new champion.

Class trophies were awarded as follows: Class B: David Munammed; Class C: Richard Ellis; Class D: Ed Dean; Class E and Unrated: Don Yessick (on tiebreak over Roger Kernodle).

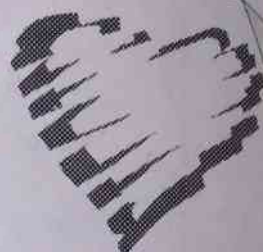
The tournament was directed by Kyle Therrell. Thanks to Bob Rieves and Richard and Kay Ellis for advance publicity.

Birmingham City Championship - 24 July 1997

Player	Prev	Perf	Post	Score	1	2	3	4
1 Kyle Therrell	2180	2341	2190	3.0	*	1	1	1F
2 Andy Reeder	2042	2126	2051	2.0	0	*	1	1
3 Kenneth Sloan	1840	1928	1849	1.0	0	0	*	1
4 Kirk Petty	1960	1542	1926	0.0	0F	0	0	*



26th Annual Queen of Hearts Chess Tournament



February 14 - 15, 1998

10th Floor, AUM Library Tower, Montgomery AL

Prizes*

Open Section (open to all)

1st	\$250
2nd	\$100
Expert	\$100
Top A	\$100
2nd A	\$50
Top < 1800	\$100
2nd < 1800	\$50

Reserve Section (under 1600)

1st	\$125
2nd	\$75
Top D	\$75
Top E	\$75
Unrated	\$50

* based on 40 regular entries for both sections combined.

Entry fees

Regular entries: \$35 if mailed by Feb. 5 to TD Rich Bellezza
(make check payable to Montgomery Chess Club - write USCF
number on check and state desired section); \$40 at site.

Scholastic entries: (for those Scholastics who elect to play for trophy prizes only) \$10 if
mailed to above address by Feb 5; \$15 at site.

Time control, etc.

Time control (both sections) : Forty moves in 90 minutes; then sudden death in 30 minutes.

Round times: Saturday, 9:30, 2:30, 7:30; Sunday, 9:30, 2:30

On-site registration: 8:15 to 9:00 A.M. Saturday.

1997/8 "Heart of Dixie" Chess Tour by Bill Melvin

The Alabama "Heart of Dixie" Chess Tour is a year-long contest to help promote Alabama chess participation and competition. The 1997-98 Alabama "Heart of Dixie" tour will span from September 2, 1997 through the 1998 Alabama State Championship. For a tournament to qualify as an Alabama "Heart of Dixie" Tour event, it must meet the following requirements:

- It must be **USCF rated**.
- It must be an **open weekend tournament in Alabama (or within 10 miles of the ACF Affiliate's location) of at least three rounds in length**.
- It must be **advertised on the ACF WWW Calendar** as an Alabama "Heart of Dixie" tour event at least one month in advance. Multiple events may be scheduled for the same weekend.
- A copy of the final **wall chart** and appropriate Heart of Dixie Tour **fees** must be **submitted** to the ACF Secretary / Treasurer within two weeks of the end of the tournament.

Prize Fund

The prize fund will be formed from tournament fees of 50 cents per participant and other donations. The ACF is donating \$200.00 to the prize fund for the "Heart of Dixie" Tour's second year. Prizes will be awarded to top players of each class by the following percentages of the prize fund:

Master/Expert:	1st, 10%; 2nd, 5%; 3rd, 3%
Class A:	1st, 10%; 2nd, 5%; 3rd, 3%
Class B:	1st, 8%; 2nd, 5%; 3rd, 3%
Class C:	1st, 8%; 2nd, 5%; 3rd, 3%
Class D:	1st, 8%; 2nd, 5%; 3rd, 3%
Class E/Unrated	1st, 8%; 2nd, 5%; 3rd, 3%

Conditions of Awarding Prizes

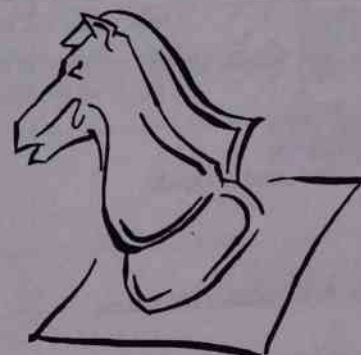
- The final class standing of a player will be determined by the August 1998 USCF rating supplement.
- Players must be ACF members to accumulate Heart of Dixie points.

Earning Heart of Dixie Points

ACF members may earn Heart of Dixie points as follows:

Each player participating in an Alabama USCF Grand Prix Dixie Tour event will earn 10 points. Players participating in the Alabama State Championship will earn 15 "Heart of Dixie" points. Players participating in all other "Heart of Dixie" Tour events will earn 5 "Heart of Dixie" points.

Players will be awarded additional Heart of Dixie points for their performance result in any "Heart of Dixie" Tour event. The performance award consists of the tournament score. For example, suppose Robert J. Kasparov scores 3.5 out of five at the Paint Rock Open, a (hypothetical) Heart of Dixie Grand Prix tournament. He would score 10 points for playing and 3.5 points for his result for a total of 13.5 Heart of Dixie points.



ACF Calendar *maintained by Dr. Ken Sloan*

This table of chess events is mostly taken from the webpage [redacted]. Look it over and **mark your calendar** with all events that you **might** want to play in! Organizers, please call or E-mail Dr. Sloan so that your tournament(s) can be listed. On very rare occasions, tournaments have to be cancelled or rescheduled after they have been announced in the *Antics*. For this reason, it is sometimes a good idea to check the ACF Webpage (or call the contact person) before driving to an out-of-town tournament.

Event	Date and City	Contact Person, phone and/or E-mail address
First Sunday Quads	December 7; Birmingham	Kenneth Sloan [redacted]
First Sunday Quads	January 4; Birmingham	Kenneth Sloan [redacted]
Deadline for submitting material for next Antics	January 16	Rhodes Peele [redacted]
Fairfield Glade	January 9 - 11; Crossville TN	Harry Sabine [redacted]
Columbus Scholastic Team	January 31; Columbus GA	Lamar Causey [redacted]
First Sunday Quads	February 1; Birmingham	Kenneth Sloan [redacted]
Hoover Scholastic	February 7; Hoover	Vasha Rosenblum; [redacted]
26th Annual Queen of Hearts	February 14 - 15; Montgomery	Rhodes Peele [redacted]
First Sunday Quads	March 1; Birmingham	Kenneth Sloan [redacted]
First Sunday Quads	April 5; Birmingham	Kenneth Sloan [redacted]
Alabama Scholastic Individual	April 18; Birmingham	Vasha Rosenblum; [redacted]

CHESS FOUNDATION OF ALABAMA

Dear Chessplayer:

A few years ago, a charitable organization was formed to promote chess and chess education for the residents of the state of Alabama. That organization is the Chess Foundation of Alabama.

The Foundation is having to raise funds. All funds raised will be accumulated and invested. Income from those funds will be used for the Foundation's charitable activities, i.e., help promote scholastic chess programs, both existing and undeveloped; chess camp scholarships; continued publication of the Alabama Chess Federation quarterly newsletter, Alabama Chess Antics, and other chess-promoting endeavors consistent with the Foundation's status as a tax-exempt organization. We solicit your participation in support of the Foundation's efforts to expose even more of our state's citizens, both young and old, to the challenge and stimulation of this time-honored game of strategy, tactics, concentration and patience.

Please join us now in this endeavor. We offer three categories of sponsorship: Under \$10, Donor; \$11-\$25, Sponsor; \$26 and Over, Benefactor. We will be happy to mail you a copy of the Foundation's By-Laws and/or Articles of Incorporation upon receipt of your request and a \$30 or more contribution. All contributions are tax deductible, and a receipt will be supplied at your request.

Checks should be made payable to the **Chess Foundation of Alabama**. Should you prefer to make a pledge, please do so by telephone or fax to the numbers indicated above.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE - SUPPORT CHESS IN ALABAMA !!!

Sincerely,

Richard W. Ellis
President

P.S. Many, many thanks to all of you who have expressed your interest in the promotion of chess in Alabama by contributions to the Chess Foundation of Alabama. Your interest and support are greatly appreciated by those of us interested in a strong chess program which reaches the citizens of our state. More and more, chess is receiving media coverage, both locally and nationally, which is solid evidence of its growth and acceptance. We want our citizens to be at the forefront of this important step into the future.



Chess for Life

The Alabama Chess Federation (ACF) is the United States Chess Federation (USCF) affiliate for the state of Alabama. Membership is open to any interested individual or organization by paying the annual membership dues. Please support Alabama chess by **joining** or **renewing** your annual membership in ACF. Benefits of membership include a subscription to the quarterly publication *Alabama Chess Antics*.

ACF Membership Application

☐ Regular, \$10

☐ Scholastic (under 19), \$5

☐ Affiliate, \$15

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

USCF ID# (if applicable) _____

Phone and/or E-mail address _____



Mail this coupon or a photocopy along with payment to
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Inside This Issue

- Annotated games from State Championship, Denker HS Championship, etc.
- Greatly expanded Scholastic Section
- Instructional articles by Bill Melvin, Bob Reives and Warner Chandler
- Display ad for next **Queen of Hearts** - mark your calendar!
- Tournament calendar, crosstables, etc.
- Much more; and **forty pages** (just for this issue, folks - happy holidays!)